

Mr Sadat calls back minister from Jerusalem peace talks

Egypt last night ordered Mr Kamel, its Foreign Minister, to break off peace talks with Israel in Jerusalem and return to Cairo, putting the future of the Middle East peace initiative in doubt. An aircraft stood by to fly him home, Mr Kamel went to call on Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Future of Egyptian initiative in doubt

From David Weiss
Cairo, Jan 18
President Sadat tonight ordered Mr Muhammad Kamel, Foreign Minister, to break off peace negotiations with Israel in Jerusalem and return to Cairo. The announcement was made at 7 pm by Mr Abdul Oueini al-Sawi, the Information Minister, in a television broadcast which shook Egyptian and threw the whole of the peace initiative into doubt.

Mr Sadat issued the order from his villa north of Cairo here he has been monitoring the proceedings of the political committee in Jerusalem with a keen eye to his delegation in the city.

However, the statement referred only to Mr Kamel and did not order the return of the whole delegation, thus apparently leaving the door open for talks, which were in their second day, to resume later.

Mr Sadat invited the Egyptian People's Assembly to a emergency meeting on Saturday to place before the representatives of the people all the facts of the situation.

A meeting of an Egyptian ministerial committee to discuss military aspects of a peace deal, tomorrow has been cancelled, official Cairo sources said tonight.

The foreign minister had been ordered to return, the television announcement said, because it had become apparent that the "declarations" of the late Minister of Israel and its Foreign Minister that Israel was willing to present partial solutions that could not lead to the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the area.

Strasbourg court clears UK of torture

From Christopher Walker
Strasbourg

The British Government was formally cleared by the European Court of Human Rights yesterday of allegations that treatment of 14 suspected IRA members in Northern Ireland nearly seven years ago amounted to torture.

The judges decided by 13 votes to four to overthrow publicly an earlier unanimous finding by the European Commission of Human Rights that five sensory deprivation interrogation techniques constituted an administrative practice of torture.

The verdict came as a blow to the prestige of the Irish Government, which had insisted on taking the case to court in the belief that the findings against Britain would be upheld.

Members of the Irish legal team sitting in court yesterday to hear the 83-page verdict read aloud were unable to disguise their disappointment at the result of a case that has cost their government an estimated £300,000.

The judges also came out against other allegations put forward by the Irish delegation that the British had used inhuman treatment against detainees held in the Maze Prison, Belfast, in autumn, 1971. That verdict by the commission was not contested by Britain last year.

But all other attempts by the Irish Government to have Britain declared guilty of human rights breaches of the Human Rights Convention were rejected. The operation of internment was found not to have discriminated against Ulster's Roman Catholic minority in violation of article 14.

In particular, the judgment has lifted a threat that has hung over the British security forces since the complex and bitterly contested case was first opened by Mr Lynch's previous Fianna Fail administration in 1971. The court ruled that it had no power to order the British Government to take disciplinary or legal action against individual soldiers and policemen involved in the allegations.

Continued on page 5, col 4

Further souring of relationship between Sir Charles Villiers and MPs BSC chief bows to select committee's order

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

The British Steel Corporation last night agreed to provide Parliament with details of its financial forecasts for the past two years. The decision followed on order served on Sir Charles Villiers, BSC chairman, yesterday by an official from the office of Parliament's Serjeant-at-Arms, at the request of the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries.

But relations between the committee and Sir Charles were further soured by the corporation's refusal to provide the information requested by the committee. The committee last week attacked the corporation's management and claimed in its report on the operations of the BSC that it had been misled.

Members of the committee strongly dispute the corporation's contention that the information now sought had not been asked for in the course of its two-year investigation.

In a statement the BSC said: "The board of the BSC has met to consider the position of the BSC and the Select Committee. The order received today refers to the progression since January 1976 of the estimates made by the BSC of its sources and application of funds for the current year, 1977-78."

"This request had not previously been made by the Select Committee. BSC is ready to give this information to the Select Committee forthwith."

Members of the committee noted that a five-year forecast had been provided in October 1976 on a confidential basis. Confidentiality had been observed.

It is understood that the committee, through its officials and advisers, made a series of formal and informal requests to the corporation for those figures to be updated over the period December 1976 to November last year, without success.

A written request was made on November 9 last year to the BSC and a further letter from Mr Edwin Wainwright, the investigating committee's chairman, was sent on November 14 asking for "updated statistics on those matters on which information was submitted (by BSC) during our main inquiry."

Specifically, the committee wants the quarterly revisions made by the corporation to be submitted to the Department of Industry between January 1976 and last September.

In October 1976 the corpora-



Miss Mary Frampton leaving BSC headquarters yesterday after serving the warrant.

tion suggested that £2,000m of its development programme would be financed from its own resources over the four years to 1980 and it also expected to make payments on its Public Dividend Capital.

According to members of the committee, which made its own calculations based on the figures provided, there was little prospect of the corporation generating that level of funds.

The chairman of the corporation for most of 1976 was Sir Monty Panikoff and it is understood that the committee has not ruled out asking him to appear before the committee again.

Sir Charles is expected to appear before the committee on January 30. Yesterday's meeting of the 10-man board of the corporation provided an opportunity to rally round its chairman who has been under increasing pressure to release the papers.

Last night BSC officials declined to comment on the allegations that the information had been asked for previously. The corporation clearly considers the detailed request for specific information to be a different to a more general request for updated financial information.

The order requiring Sir Charles to produce the documents was served by Miss Mary Frampton, as warrant officer of the House of Commons. This procedure has been available to Parliament for many years but no one in the House could recall it being invoked before.

The committee's action followed the announcement earlier this week by Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, that the BSC's forecast loss for

the current year was £520m. Earlier forecasts by the board and submitted to Ministers projected losses of £350m and £466m for the year.

Fred Emery writes: The eight Labour members of the Select Committee last night hit back at ministerial criticism. In a letter to all Labour MPs they defended their reaction in the controversy and emphasized their warning that as much as £2,000m might have to be found for BSC over the next three years if government policies remained unchanged.

The letter, signed by Mr Russell Kemp, chairman of the Select Committee, and his Labour colleagues, was despatched after the committee's order had been served on Sir Charles.

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Assault on Britain's 'lie factory' by Jesuit

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Jan 18

The Vatican among others suffered, and is probably still suffering, from the British wartime policy of concocting and disseminating "authorized lies" as part of the programme of psychological warfare.

The number of official utterances devised by the Foreign Office, British Intelligence and the military, and circulated by a variety of means, ran to thousands, according to Father Robert Graham, the Jesuit historian, whose attack on British methods will be published this weekend by his order's periodical *Civitas Vaticana*.

When first invented at the beginning of the war, the stories were called "whispers", but as production mounted they became known as "sibs" from the Latin *sibilare*, to whisper. To this extent, at least, a decent classical education left its mark.

The organization devising "sibs" was the Political Warfare Executive (PWE) established in September, 1941, which Father Graham does not estimate to describe as a "lie factory". Its chief was Sir Reginald Leeper, head of the political information department of the Foreign Office, a post which he used as a cover for the secret PWE.

Its product was an "essentially fictitious, false and mendacious", as all its practitioners admit. In the words of one of them, Sir Gerald Templer, later Chief of the Imperial General Staff (1955-59): "It is agreed that friend and foe alike should be deceived."

The status of these false reports was such that they were filed and numbered. For instance, "sib" No R/669 attributed to a Swiss doctor the statement that 200 German soldiers had to be castrated due to the severity of the Russian winter. This one found its way into an American news agency's service under the heading "The eunuchs of the Eastern front".

Father Graham's analysis is intended to draw attention to the false reports (not all unfattering) concerning the Holy See particularly, to question the morality of such measures, and to point out the difficulty of the true from the false in the compromised sources.

Continued on page 6, col 1

Ex-MP's body believed found as police investigate multiple killing

By Ronald Faux
and Stewart Tandler

Detectives from more than half a dozen Scottish and English police forces last night were investigating a bizarre trail of killings which are thought to include those of Mr Walter Scott-Elliott, a former Labour MP, aged 82, his wife, the brother of the couple's butler, a gardener, and an unknown woman.

Yesterday morning the police officers uncovered the body of a man in his eighties thought to be Mr Scott-Elliott, in a shallow grave near Inverness. The brother of the butler, Mr Donald Hall, was found in the boot of a car on Monday near Edinburgh and the woman was found in a stream at Middlebie, Dumfries and Galloway, on Christmas Day.

Today searches will continue in Tayside for Mrs Scott-Elliott's body and in Dumfries and Galloway for that of the gardener.

The first of the killings, that of the gardener, is thought to have taken place last July when the man was shot and buried in the grounds of an estate. The death of the woman remained unknown to the police until this week.

It was the discovery of the body of Mr Hall, aged 37, of no fixed abode, that prompted the police investigations. Last night the police confirmed that Mr Hall had been released from prison recently, although they did say he had a prison record.

They added that he had

recently been seen in the Cumbria area and yesterday police officers searched a holiday cottage at Newtow Ark, near Carlisle.

Villagers say the cottage was let to two men last November. One was described as a Scot and the other a Londoner. The two were joined by a woman in December but she left last weekend and a third man joined the two.

One report suggested that an older man was seen at the cottage last November, but it is not known if that was Mr Scott-Elliott. The Scott-Elliotts were last seen at their home in Richmond Court, Knightsbridge, on December 13.

Staff at the block of flats thought the couple had left to go to Scotland for Christmas. They were not reported missing because they often travelled and their disappearance raised no suspicions among the staff.

On Sunday night officers from the Metropolitan Police arrived and searched the two-bedroom flat. It was thought that some antiques were missing and yesterday Scotland Yard said that antiques worth 3,000 had been recovered in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, during the past few days.

Detectives and forensic scientists have been working in the flat for three days and the building is under a police guard. Yesterday night two senior detectives from Chelsea travelled to Edinburgh to join officers from the Lothians and Border force under the com-

mand of Det Chief Supt George Macpherson, head of the force's CID.

The body of the elderly man found yesterday morning was taken to the Glasgow Necropolis, about 35 miles from Inverness. A search was made among snow-covered undergrowth near a remote road leading to a gamekeeper's cottage.

A policeman saw a skull protruding from a rhododendron bush and the area was screened. The body was then uncovered.

Mr Walter Scott-Elliott was educated at Eton and served in the Guards in the First World War. He came from a Scottish family with an estate in Berwickshire and after the war he entered business.

During the Second World War he served on the headquarters staff of the Ministry of Labour. At that time he was married to an Austrian baroness, his first wife, and near the end of the war it was disclosed that his wife had threatened her in an attempt to prevent the marriage.

In 1945 Mr Scott-Elliott became Labour MP for Ayr and was appointed parliamentary private secretary to the Secretary of State for War, a post he held in 1946-47.

Then, in 1948, he announced he would not stand again after he had written to *The Times* suggesting a compromise between the Labour and Conservative parties to lessen the dangers of the international situation.

Photograph page 2

Bill to curb number of pickets

By Hugh Noyes

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury, was given leave by the House of Commons yesterday, to the consideration of a Bill to restrict the number of pickets and to require them to be authorized and identified, perhaps by wearing armbands, by the trade unions concerned.

The Bill, which will also make provision for the separate organization of anyone else who might want to demonstrate in support of the pickets.

To everyone's surprise, not least that of Mr Ridley, leave to introduce the Bill was approved by 183 to 181, a majority of six, despite vigorous opposition by Labour trade unionists.

Triumphantly, Mr Ridley, who is one of the most effective thorns in the flesh of pomposity, whether in the Tory or Labour establishment, was able to startle MPs that he and the Prime Minister would join forces to prepare and bring in the Bill.

That, of course, was Mr Ridley's little joke, for it must be assumed that Mr Callaghan would not be jumping with joy at the thought of joining forces against pickets, whether of a militant or a peaceful nature, with the MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury.

It might well be that he knew nothing about the Bill because he was not sighted anywhere near the Chamber as the division was called. But Mr Ridley insisted that his views on picketing, as expressed in his Bill, coincided so closely with those of the Prime Minister that Mr Callaghan should be grateful.

Indeed, not only the Prime Minister but those ministers of lower degree and other MPs who were forced to show their trade union loyalties by shivering on street corners in danger of being thumped by policemen or, worse, arrested and carried off to Wormwood Scrubs, should all be thankful to him, Mr Ridley suggested.

When the division came there was no need for armbands, to reason that Mr Ridley had organized his demonstration successfully.

Parliamentary report, page 14

Van fire death after motorway crash in fog

A trapped driver died in his burning van on the M1 in Hertfordshire yesterday after a multiple collision in dense fog. His vehicle burst into flames as rescuers were about to free him.

Freezing fog continued to affect many parts of Britain last night, reducing visibility to less than 20 yards in some areas. A three-mile stretch of the M5 near Worcester was shut yesterday after several accidents.

The M1 collision involved four vehicles, including a lorry. They caught fire after the collision and 10 other vehicles crashed behind them.

Up to eighty vehicles were involved in minor accidents before the police diverted traffic off the motorway at Luton. Six people received hospital treatment.

On the motorway near Watford Gap, Northamptonshire, nearly 30 cars and lorries were involved in collisions on both carriageways. Firemen freed three men from their vehicles. Two were seriously injured.

In the West Country Mr Joseph Orchard, aged 77, of Exeter, died in the fringe of Dartmoor, collapsed and died last night after his car had fallen into a ditch near Okehampton.



THE DISASTER ENDOURES- THE SURVIVORS SIT AND WAIT.

So reported Jonathan Dimbleby on I.T.V. last Thursday. Oxford's Disaster Team working in the area have already spent £112,500. They now require your help to support employment, agricultural and rebuilding schemes.

Thousands of families need homes: Oxford is teaching them how to rebuild their homes more safely with local materials. A house costs around £50. Miles of irrigation canals need to be cleared: Oxford is funding this work so that the fields can grow new crops.

Our team of experts on the spot urgently need more money for reconstruction work: please help now. The survivors, many of whom are left with nothing, wait for your help. Your gift is desperately needed now.

Here is my donation for £..... for the victims of the Indian Cyclone.
Name
Address
Please send now to the Indian Cyclone Appeal, Room T4, Oxford, Freeport, Oxford OX2 7BP.
Please help now as time is desperately short, we will send you a progress report when we can.



hiopia attacks wen position i Somali war

pis has accused Britain of failing to condemn what it called "Somali sors" in the Horn of Africa war. Britain not to provide military aid to Somalia. In the Com-

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, dispute should be settled by Organization of African Unity. Over Union has admitted it is pr-

ruption by three
n over Iran deal
tant-Colonel David Randal, who tached to the defence sales org-

Scottish MP dies

With the death yesterday of Mr William Small, Labour MP for Glasgow, Garscadden, the Government faces one of its most vital electoral tests. Labour is fully aware that the by-election result will reflect the Scottish verdict on Government policies, particularly on devolution. Page 2 Obituary, page 19

England start badly

Graham Roope and Bob Taylor, with an unbeaten sixth-wicket stand of 45, pulled England out of trouble after they had been 105 for five in the third Test match against Pakistan. Page 8

'Think tank' critics

Lord Home of Hirsell and Lord George-Brown, both former Foreign Secretaries, criticized the "think tank" report on the Diplomatic Service. Lord George-Brown said it should be consigned to the waste basket. Lord Home called for greater overseas representation. Page 4

Earnings rise faster

Average earnings rose 1.9 per cent in November bringing the increases since August 1 to 4.8 per cent. If this continued throughout the whole year it would show an increase of just over 15 per cent, well in excess of the Government's guidelines. Fewer workers have actually settled new pay deals than at this time last year. Page 21

Cuban Rhodesia role

Cuban military advisers are reported to be training guerrillas of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front in Zambia and Mozambique. African nationalists and officials of the five "front-line" states around Rhodesia say that connections of this kind have arisen mostly because of Western unwillingness to give military help. Page 6

Abortion allegations withdrawn

Allegations against a pregnancy advisory service in a book about abortion have been withdrawn by the authors. Page 2

Leader page 17

Letters: On reforming Parliament, from Sir Peter Rawlinson, and Mr Fred Hardman; on nuclear disarmament, from Mrs Elizabeth Young; on the V & A closures, from Lord Goodman and Lord Gibson, and Mr Hugh Leggar.

Leading articles: A dispassionate judgment; Disputed oceans around the Horn of Africa, page 13.

Ridley Scott talks to George Roberts about his film *The Dulleahs*; Irvine Wardle on *King's Head*.

Books, page 12
Michael Ratcliffe on the first volume of Thomas Hardy's *Letters*; Andrew Sinclair's biography of Jack London, reviewed by Sir William Haley.

Sport, page 17
Racing: Ground National series; both today's meetings abandoned; Football: Tostack to sign for Anderlecht.

Features, pages 9, 16
Roads: Slog on immigration; Dennis Whitely and Ian Gilmore on prospects for a Middle East settlement.

Business News, pages 20-26
Stock markets: Equities went ahead on small demand and the FT index closed 2.4 up at 475.3. Gilt also gained ground.

Financial Editor: Investment trusts as the dust settles; Madame Tussaud's while Lord Grade is away... Allied Readers now seeing real gains.

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Pound note to be smaller

The Bank of England plans to issue new £1 notes next month. The size is to change - 7/16ths smaller in width - to help blind people to tell the difference between £1 and £5 notes.

HOME NEWS

Colonel and two radio company executives found guilty on corruption charges over Iran deal

By Robert Parker

Lieutenant-Colonel David Randal, who was attached to the defence sales organisation at the Ministry of Defence, was found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of corruption charges relating to the sale of £4m of radio equipment for Chieftain tanks sold to Iran.

Two executives of the radio equipment company, the Royal British Communications Corporation, were also found guilty of corruption charges. They are Geoffrey Elliott Wellburn, aged 40, the former managing director, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Frank Percival Nurdin, aged 50, the former sales director, of Arley, Hertfordshire.

The nine-week trial was one of the most complicated heard at the court for several years, much controversy being expected about some of the evidence, in particular that relating to bribes aimed at winning arms contracts in the Middle East, and the use of "agents" to promote sales.

The Ministry of Defence is also concerned about the damaging effect the trial may have had on sales. However, it is not prepared to say anything until Judge Miskin, QC, the recorder, has passed sentence on the three men later today.

The Ministry denied reports that Mr Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, had asked for urgent reports from the defence sales organisation into the extent of bribery and corruption. It said the position was continually reviewed to make sure that the high standards of honesty and in-

tegrity required of all government employees was being met. The three men were charged with either giving or accepting corrupt payments to help in securing a contract to provide radio equipment for £100m of Chieftain tanks sold to the Iranians.

The offences are said to have taken place in 1971 and 1972, and specimens of the evidence, including a letter from the Garrison Officers' Mess, Aldershot, received £7,000 on February 25, 1972, £5,000 on February 29, 1972, and £2,000 on October 26, 1972 from the two executives.

Judge Miskin directed the jury, who considered their verdicts for nine hours, to find Mr Wellburn and Mr Nurdin not guilty of giving Colonel Randal £120,000 in 1971, and to find Colonel Randal not guilty of accepting that amount.

Colonel Randal, who is said to be planning to write a book about arms sales in the Middle East, was promoted in 1973 as one of Britain's youngest army salesmen in 1970. The team later became a part of the defence sales organisation.

As a signals expert, Colonel Randal was sent to Oman to sort out the Sultan's communications, which were being tapped.

All three defendants, who pleaded not guilty, were remanded in custody to await sentence today.

Colonel Randal: Recalled from Oman.

guilty of accepting that amount. It is understood that both the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence have been embarrassed by some of the evidence.

The affairs of Colonel Randal, who was said to have lived beyond his means on Service pay, first attracted attention in 1971. At that time, it was said, British intelligence reported rumours that he was demanding a 1 per cent commission from companies that obtained contracts. That was when he was in Oman commanding the Sultan's signals regiment.

by the Army's Special Investigation Branch about a month after Colonel Randal had been recalled from Oman in June, 1974, the court was told. The court was then taken over by Scotland Yard's serious crimes squad, whose investigations led them to the Iranian tanks deal. The deal for the tanks was signed in February, 1972, and it is alleged that Colonel Randal demanded a 1 per cent commission of £20,000.

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Big test for Labour in Glasgow contest

By Michael Hatfield

The Government faces one of its biggest electoral tests with the by-election in Glasgow, caused by the death yesterday of Mr William Small, Labour member for Carscadden.

Labour party managers will begin calculating the timing of the contest, aware that for the first time in Scotland since the general election of October, 1974, the Scottish people's attitude to government economic policies in general and devolution in particular will be reflected in the ballot box.

The contest becomes more important than the Iford, North, by-election because party managers realize that the next general election can be won or lost north of the border. In October, 1974, the Scottish National Party candidate came second to Labour, overhauling the Conservatives who ran second in February, 1974.

The SNP, needing a 10 per cent swing to defeat Labour, believes that is within its grasp, particularly as it seized all the Glasgow district council seats from Labour last May.

However, that had such an effect on the local Labour Party, whose organization was in a depressed state, that party workers have become more active. It is also true that since May Labour has lost none of the 17 local government by-elections in Scotland.

There was speculation last night that the local Labour party, which has a left-wing bias, may choose Mr James Reid, the former communist shipbuilding shop steward, if he can be persuaded to stand. He is a Clydesider and the river borders the constituency. Mr Reid, however, is also understood to have trade union affiliations and is looking towards the Scottish TUC.

It happens that the constituency has begun the process for selecting a candidate because Mr Small had announced last year his intention to resign before the next general election.

The SNP candidate is expected to be Mr Keith Bovey, aged 51, a Glasgow solicitor. He is a radical on civil rights and a member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, but his economic views are closer to the Labour Party. He fought the seat in October, 1974. He had already been adopted as the candidate for the general election, but under SNP rules his candidacy for a by-election has to be ratified by the party conference. It is almost certain to approve Mr Bovey.

The Scottish Labour Party holds its annual conference on March 17 and 18, Labour faces the question whether to go before or after that date. Party managers cannot be certain that divisions will not appear.

The Government is in a minority position of 15 against all parties. In the Commons yesterday, Mr Small was paid tribute by Mr Macdonald, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, described him as a man of great sincerity and integrity with "a finely tuned sense of humour".

October, 1974, general election, 19,757 (50.9 per cent); Bovey, K. (Scott Nat), 12,111 (31.2 per cent); Corbett, C. (C), 5,004 (12.8 per cent); Kilby, M. (L), 1,915 (4.9 per cent). Lab majority, 7,626 (19.7 per cent). Obituary, page 19

Prisoner found dead

Andrew King, aged 33, one of three men sentenced to life imprisonment in 1966 for killing a farmer, was found hanging in his cell at Leeds prison yesterday.



Body found: After a body thought to be that of Mr Walter Scott-Elliott, aged 82, a former Labour MP, had been found at Guisachan, near Inverness (above) yesterday, police inquiries into his death and the disappearance of his wife were accepted by a coroner. Mr and Mrs Scott-Elliott (right) were married in 1948 and lived in London. Mr Scott-Elliott, who served with the Coldstream Guards during the First World War, entered Parliament as MP for Accrington at the 1945 general election, remaining in the House until 1950. He was parliamentary private secretary to the Secretary of State for War in 1946-47. Before the war he had worked for the Bomby Company.



Mr Benn is given Anglo-US reactor advice

Science Editor

A joint Anglo-American submission on the choice of Britain's next nuclear reactor was made yesterday to Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, to complete the evidence he has been assembling since he failed to carry a meeting of cabinet ministers before Christmas on earlier proposals.

Over the past two weeks he has heard arguments relating to the effects on the balance of payments, employment, technological advance, independence of foreign influence and national prestige which would flow from a decision to select either the advanced gas reactor (AGR) (a design used only in the United Kingdom) or a pressurized water reactor (PWR) used predominantly in the rest of the world. The PWR originated in the United States but it is now made with design variations elsewhere.

Mr Benn has insisted, rather disingenuously, that the Central Electricity Generating Board and the South of Scotland Electricity Board are the customers for these atomic power stations and that his role is to ensure that supplies are made to secure supplies for the consumer.

At the very least he is the umpire in a difference of opinion between the two boards. The CEGB wants to order another AGR to add to the four built or nearly constructed and to order its first PWR. Experience gathered on the latter would clearly influence a later decision on whether to concentrate all future stations on PWR. The Scottish board favours the AGR.

whether to concentrate all future stations on PWR. The Scottish board favours the AGR.

The issues are far more complicated than a straight choice between a British and foreign technology, however. Government planning for nuclear power is based on forecasts accepted by the recently formed Energy Commission, on which all the nationalized energy industries are represented, showing that demand for atomic power stations up to the turn of the century will be between £15,000m and £20,000m.

As opponents of nuclear power have told the Government during the present discussions, there is no immediate need for new generators because the boards already have a 40 per cent surplus of capacity. But that does not help the boilermaker and the turbine industry, which have emptying workshops because the last of the AGRs being built for the boards should be completed next year. The quickest way of filling the factories would be through an AGR order.

There are outstanding plans for nuclear stations for Sizewell in Suffolk and Torness in Scotland, agreed by the Government four years ago when the choice of reactor was thought to have been settled in favour of yet another system, the steam generating heavy water reactor. Doubts about safety at the time ruled against the PWR, and long

delays and technical troubles with the AGR programme caused the rejection of that system.

The only undisputed point in the present debate is that an AGR order could prevent the electronic industry from going into serious decline.

The additional decisions are crucial. A first order for PWRs opens the prospect of establishing an industry to continue with that design to satisfy nuclear needs for 30 years. It is favoured by Sir Arnold Weinstock, of GEC, Sir Kenneth Keith, of Rolls-Royce, and other industrialists because of the intransigent trade it could create. They want to make arrangements with the Westinghouse Corporation of America to transfer the technology to do the work in Britain.

Such a transfer has been successful elsewhere. Whereas American reactor manufacturers controlled 85 per cent of the world's nuclear export business until 1972, they now have a 40 per cent share of the market because France and Germany have built their own industry by adopting PWR-type designs.

There are big technical differences between the AGR and PWR. The most obvious is that the PWR works at a lower temperature, and so the type of turbine industry needed to generate the power differs markedly from that needed for an AGR.

A second factor is the next generation of either system. If

Britain adopts AGR she will commit an carry into the 1980s the fast-bred reactor, which is 60 times more efficient in use of uranium. If a series of PWRs are ordered to last the end of the century a decision on the development of fast-breeder reactors will be deferred for up to 15 years.

Our Energy Correspondent writes: Concern is growing the Central Electricity Generating Board over indications that Mr Benn mistakenly felt that a commitment to further design studies on PWRs was acceptable to the board. Sir Benn has dropped his previous implacable opposition to PWR and has said he is prepared to recommend further design studies in addition to firm orders for two AGRs.

Mr Benn, it is said, feels that that would satisfy the CEGB, which holds the view that the Government should definitely order a PWR. The board wants construction start by January, 1982, at the earliest, provided that all the necessary safety and planning consents have been obtained. That would be in addition to an AGR order for 1980.

All the processes of water reactors have said Mr Benn that only by building an operating British PWR can the CEGB make a valid comparison with second-generation AGRs.

Allegations on abortion are dropped

By Annabel Ferriman

Allegations against the British Pregnancy Advisory Service in the book *Babies for Burning*, which was published in 1974, were withdrawn by the authors in the High Court yesterday.

The authors, Mr Michael Litchfield and Mrs Susan Kentish, two former *New* of the World journalists, withdrew allegations that the service had misused its charitable status and made deliberate efforts and arrangements to attract "girls from all over the world on special abortion junkies".

They also said their general allegations against pregnancy testing agencies were not intended to refer to the service, and apologized for any distress and damage the allegations had caused.

An agreed statement was read in open court after the trial, in which the authors and the service's trustees and full-time director had issued a writ for libel in November, 1974, against the book's authors and publisher, Serpentine Press, which was then in liquidation since afterwards.

The statement, read by Mr William Denny, QC, counsel for the service, said: "The book made a number of extremely grave allegations about the conduct of the service, the Health Service of consultants, doctors, abortion referral, advisory and pregnancy testing agencies and those responsible for the management and control of private abortion clinics and did not specifically exclude BPAS from these general allegations. For example, the book suggested that pregnancy testing agencies deliberately informed women that they were pregnant when they were not and that abortions were frequently carried out illegally. Other general allegations included the bribery of government officials, the employment of incompetent doctors and the holding of fascist views. These generalized accusations could have been understood in reference to the plaintiffs and to BPAS as well as to other organizations. Mr Litchfield and Mrs Kentish now expressly wish to make it clear that these accusations were not intended to refer to the plaintiffs and BPAS. The authors also state that BPAS ensures that its pregnancy testing is as reliable as possible and that it co-operates with all legal obligations. Moreover, the authors recognize that BPAS exercised the greatest care in the employment of medical practitioners and in selecting and training its counsellors. The authors acknowledge that the plaintiffs are dedicated to the charitable purpose of the BPAS trust."

Mr John Prentice, counsel for the authors, said that the defendants, while not relying in any way from their general criticisms of the Abortion Act, 1967, are pleased to have the opportunity of withdrawing the allegations which were made in *Babies for Burning* and have been understood to refer to the plaintiffs and BPAS.

After the hearing Mrs Diane Munday, public relations officer for the service, said the action had cost the service £20,000 in legal fees and £5,000 in staff time and effort. It might have expected further costs of £50,000 had the trial taken place.

It had become increasingly likely that the service would be unable to pay the costs. Mrs Munday said the case had special significance because of the book's influence. In February, 1975, three months after its publication, the private members' Bill of Mr James White, Labour MP for Pollok, designed to tighten the Abortion Act, 1967, passed its second reading. Mr White drafted the Bill after reading the book in proof.

A parliamentary select committee was appointed to inquire into the workings of the Act and the only individuals to give evidence were Mr Litchfield and Mrs Kentish. Mr William Beavon's subsequent private member's Bill closely followed the committee's recommendations.

Defendant in conveyancing case alleges malice

From Arthur Osman

Mr Michael Hoyle, senior assistant secretary of the Law Society, denied at Worcester Magistrates' Court yesterday that the society's prosecution of a conveyancing case was improperly motivated.

Mr Francis Whitsome (formerly Reynolds), of Hylton Road, Worcester, a law lecturer, has denied six summonses alleging that he prepared house conveyancing documents when unqualified, contrary to section 22 of the Solicitors Act, 1974.

He asked Mr Hoyle: "Is one of the objectives of this prosecution to reinforce the solicitors' monopoly?"

Mr Hoyle replied: "No, it is to enforce the law." The defendant said: "My allegation is that this is a malicious and vexatious prosecution brought for the purpose of putting an end to the lives of the conveyancing documents when unqualified, contrary to section 22 of the Solicitors Act, 1974."

The truth is that it is for the private interest and financial gain of 23,500 solicitors; that is the purpose and that is what I have been trying to establish."

Mr Clifford Moiser, the magistrates' clerk, said: "Go to Parliament to change it."

The prosecution has accepted that there was no evidence that Mr Whitsome gained financially from being an honorary conveyancer for the association, which has carried out hundreds of conveyancing transactions in the past five and a half years.

Mr Hoyle said he thought the people running the PTA were doing it as a business and

for their own personal gain. Mr Whitsome asked: "Would you agree that it would facilitate members of the profession and the council of the Law Society if the activities of the PTA could be stopped?"

Mr Hoyle replied: "It would remove a certain workload in the department and for me."

Mr Whitsome also asked: "Have you got as a secondary objective that of putting a stop to the PTA offering this service?"

Mr Hoyle replied: "In so far as that enforces the law, which has been flouted for a lengthy period in my view, and those instructing me, yes."

Mr Whitsome: "In the public interest?"

Mr Hoyle: "Yes. Mr Hoyle denied a suggestion that solicitors who engage unqualified staff for conveyancing and litigation are, prima facie, promoting a breach of the Act. Mr Whitsome asked: "Is the only reason you are prosecuting me because you feel that I have broken the law and that I must be punished for that breach?"

Mr Hoyle replied: "Not the only reason, no."

Mr Hoyle was asked if it was the policy of the Law Society to prosecute all non-solicitor conveyancers who came to his attention. He replied: "It is the policy of the Law Society to prosecute all non-solicitor conveyancers who come to my attention. I think I have to claim privilege for my client (the society). We are moving now into matters of social advice or my client, who is also my employer."

Mr Hoyle said he had not a personal grudge against Mr Whitsome and he did not dislike him in the sense of bating him.

The hearing continues today.

Union wins recognition tussle with Du Pont

By Christopher Thomas

the ASTMS, the Northern Ireland Labour Relations Agency intervened. The union said yesterday that the company had agreed in writing to "cease all action, that is, meetings and communications, which might influence the attitude of staff and members, conducted by the labour relations agency, resulting in a 65 per cent majority in favour of socialist negotiations rights for the ASTMS."

In a message of support to the ASTMS, Mr Frank D. Margno, president of the United States International Chemical Workers' Union, said: "The truth is that through a system of social and corporate pressures and fears Du Pont endeavours to discourage union membership in all countries."

Mr Roger Lyons, ASTMS national chemicals officer, said: "While this first recognition success at Maydon covers 130 supervisory staff, its repercussions include recruitment among Du Pont staff grades."

to the European Assembly, the change made last night by the assembly's agenda committee, is a small triumph for Mr Steel.

He had made clear that to have the hands of Liberal MPs tied was unacceptable, and that he would have to resign the leadership if the assembly went against him.

That will hold should the assembly vote for the alternative of an immediate end to the pact.

The chairman of the agenda committee said last night that the change in the proposed motion sprang from the large number of amendments that had been received proposing that discretion should be left

North Sea revenue plans in final Cabinet draft

By Our Political Editor

The Government's proposals for spending future North Sea oil revenues are being put into final draft at the Cabinet Office under Sir John Hunt, and a White Paper may be published some time next month. This is a firmer "steer" to the proposals than had been earlier discussed and expected. A consultative document or green paper had been in prospect, but new pressure from trade union leaders and members of the Labour Party executive has led to a decision to move the Government to public expenditure. The proposals may, however, still be tentative. The progress to the Cabinet Office of documents from Mr Healey at the Treasury, and Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, has also caused a little surprise. The two ministers were asked by Mr Callaghan to draw up joint proposals. They have not agreed

with the Chancellor, less enamoured of the wholesale commitment to expenditure on public services and even new public sector industries as proposed by Mr Benn.

Mr Benn appears to believe that he has been having the better of the argument, and that Mr Callaghan will side with the union leaders' call for greater emphasis on increased public expenditure.

However, the battle may not yet be quite over. Mr Healey has both tax cuts and repayment of foreign debts in mind. The CECB wants to order another AGR to add to the four built or nearly constructed and to order its first PWR. Experience gathered on the latter would clearly influence a later decision on whether to concentrate all future stations on PWR. The Scottish board favours the AGR.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts shown as advancing edges. Symbols are as accompanying code.

Today Sun rises: 7.56 am Sun sets: 4.27 pm Moon sets: 3.40 am Moon rises: 12.58 pm Full moon: January 24, 12.44 am. High water: London Bridge, 9.52 am, 6m (19.8ft); 10.41 pm, 6.2m (20.4ft). Avonmouth, 9.47 am, 5.9m (19.4ft); 10.33 pm, 10.1m (33.2ft). Dover, 7.15 am, 3.4m (11.2ft); 7.58 pm, 5.4m (17.7ft). Hull, 1.37 am, 5.7m (18.7ft); 2.44 pm, 5.4m (17.7ft). Liverpool, 7.38 am, 7.4m (24.2ft); 8.5 pm, 7.5m (24.6ft).

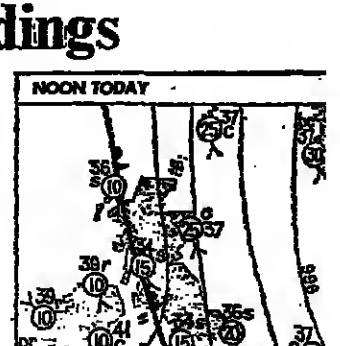
A trough of low pressure will move E over Britain. Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, East Angles, E. Central N. NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Central Highlands: Sleet and snow spreading from W. cloudy with moderate rain, max temp 3°C (37°F). SE, SW, central S. England, Wales, W. Wales, N. Wales, NW England: Outbreaks of sleet or snow. Perhaps moderate falls, drifting in places; hill fog, clear periods developing later; wind S, light, becoming NW moderate; max temp 3°C (37°F).

Lake District, SW. NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Sleet or snow at times, moderate falls, drifting in places; hill fog, perhaps clearing later; wind S becoming W, light or moderate; max temp 4°C (39°F). Aberdeen, Moray, Fife, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Bright and dry at first, wintry showers developing; wind near coast: max temp 3°C (37°F). Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Mostly cold, sleet or snow in places, fog patches and night frosts.



Channel Islands, S. Wales, Isle of Man, N. Ireland: Rain, snow on hills, sunny intervals developing; scattered showers; wind S, then W, moderate or fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F). Midlands, N. Wales, NW England: Outbreaks of sleet or snow. Perhaps moderate falls, drifting in places; hill fog, clear periods developing later; wind S, light, becoming NW moderate; max temp 3°C (37°F).

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Overseas selling prices: Australia, Jan 18, Sydney, 4s 6d; London, 4s 6d; New York, 4s 6d; Hong Kong, 4s 6d; Singapore, 4s 6d; etc.

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FORD TRUCKS

COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Irish Government justifies pursuit of case by claiming use of torture is now outlawed in Ulster

By Craig Seton

The Irish Government's stance, concealed during the European Court of Human Rights proceedings, was that the use of torture was now outlawed in Ulster. The Government's position was that its decision to instigate proceedings had been vindicated by the fact that the use of torture was now outlawed in Ulster.

The statement said that by its actions the Irish Government had shown that it was committed to the use of "torture" by security forces in Northern Ireland. The statement also said that the European Court's judgment had not been welcomed by all interested in the protection of human rights.

It became clear when the judgment was announced that the Irish Government had expected the European Court to follow the commission's findings that Britain had been guilty of both torture and inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees.

to someone pleading guilty in court and being overruled. Others pointed out that a number of suspects subjected to British interrogation methods had been awarded compensation of up to £25,000 in the Northern Ireland High Court.

Even so, the Irish Government's position was that its decision to instigate proceedings had been vindicated by the fact that the use of torture was now outlawed in Ulster.

There was no immediate response from the Northern Ireland Office, but the relief was obvious. A statement would be made after the judgment had been fully read and considered, it was indicated.

Mr Harry West, leader of the Official Unionist Party, and Mr John Taylor, the party's EEC spokesman, welcomed the court's decision.

Mr Taylor said Britain had already stated that a few detainees had received degrading treatment and he hoped the Irish Government would now demonstrate its commitment to the use of torture.

Mr Gerard Pitt, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, criticized the court's findings.

To those on the receiving end, he said, the words made little difference. Following the verdict, he said, it would be allowed to happen again, but those who had carried out such actions should be amenable to justice.

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, which supplied much of the evidence for the charges against Britain, said it was disappointed at the court's decision.

Verdict after six years of bizarre and costly litigation

From Christopher Walker Strasbourg

The historic verdict delivered in Strasbourg yesterday by the European Court of Human Rights brought to a close the longest, most bizarre and costliest litigation between two governments in recent legal history.

It was first launched officially on December 16, 1971, in the violent aftermath of internment (or "operating Demetrius") as it was officially described, and the case is estimated to have cost British and Irish taxpayers more than £10m between them.

In addition, the British Government has paid out £188,250 in damages to the 14 IRA suspects who were subjected to the interrogation techniques that form the centre-piece of the case.

At some stages of the proceedings the British have been accused by Strasbourg officials of deliberately acting obstructively in order to minimize damaging publicity. One occasion occurred early in 1974, when Britain rejected a number of places, including Gibraltar,

as suitable venues for pre-selecting members of the security forces as witnesses. The spot eventually chosen was Sola, a remote military air base on the Norwegian coast. Soldiers and policemen flown from Northern Ireland by the RAF appeared there behind plastic screens to prevent any chance of their identities being discovered.

At the time the troops and policemen were under strict orders not to answer any questions about their techniques. The British security forces reluctantly agreed to cooperate only on the strict understanding that their evidence would never be used against them.

In spite of the obsessive secrecy the names of many of those involved leaked out. Three times in the past year republican newspapers have printed the names of 20 soldiers and policemen alleged to be involved in the interrogations.

Attempts to reach a friendly settlement under the rules that cover the European Convention on Human Rights have failed: so far a secret meeting in Paris and later at another in Strasbourg. Both in public and private sessions, relations between the opposing government delegations have been frosty.

During the hearings details of five techniques gradually emerged, although the exact location of the white-walled interrogation centre where they were practised has never been disclosed. Some of the Irish witnesses demonstrated to the commissioners how they were spreadeagled against a wall, their legs spread apart and their weight forced on to their fingertips. One man was said to have remained like that for 29 hours.

The bonds used on the 14 men were described as black or navy-blue bags and the noise to which they were subjected was described as "a continuous, low hissing sound". They were denied sleep and given a restricted diet consisting of a round of bread and a pint of water every six hours. Confirmation that the techniques were ordered at the highest level emerged when it was admitted that they had been taught by word of mouth to members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary at a building described as "the English Intelligence Centre".

Observers believe that one result of the length and cost of the case will be calls inside the Council of Europe for a streamlining of the cumbersome machinery for enforcing the European Convention on Human Rights.

At the same time it has been noted that, although many aspects of the Ulster crisis have changed since proceedings began, the record of the court underlines the intractability of the Irish problem. The first case ever to come before it, 16 years ago, was brought by a suspected IRA man from the Irish Republic who contended also unsuccessfully, that the Dublin Government's use of internment had been a breach of the convention.

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Britain cleared on main sensory-deprivation charge

Continued from page 1

Although the case covered many aspects of British security policy in Ulster, the torture allegations have dominated international attention and generated much hostile Soviet and republican propaganda.

In a separate opinion published yesterday, Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice, QC, the British judge, criticized the Government's decision last year not to contest the five interrogation techniques amounted to "inhuman and degrading treatment" in breach of article 3.

Explaining his denial that the sensory-deprivation techniques constituted torture, Sir Gerald questioned how such practices as having one's fingers impaled on a stake through the rectum, or roasted over an electric grid would be characterized if that was the case.

In other separate opinions, the Austrian, Irish, Greek and Cypriot judges gave their reasons for not supporting the majority verdict of the court to reject the torture findings.

The techniques used in August and October, 1971, involved prolonged wall standing, subsection to loud noise, hooding and deprivation of food, drink

and sleep for long periods. Yesterday's verdict noted that the techniques had been abandoned by the British Government in March, 1972, and that an unqualified undertaking that they would never be reintroduced was given to the court last year by the British Attorney-General.

A crucial paragraph stated: "Although the five techniques, as applied in combination, undoubtedly amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment, although their object was the extraction of confessions, the naming of others and/or information, and although they were used systematically, they did not occasion suffering of the particular intensity and cruelty implied by the word 'torture' as so understood."

Perhaps not surprisingly, the bitterest separate opinion against the majority verdict came from Mr Philip O'Donoghue, the Irish judge.

"One is not bound to regard torture as only present in a medieval dungeon where the appliance of rack and thumb-screw, or similar devices were

employed", he argued. "Indeed, in the present-day world, there can be little doubt that torture may be inflicted in the mental sphere."

After the acquittal, jubilant British officials in Strasbourg pointed out that the court had effectively rejected every claim demand made by the Irish Government at last year's public hearings.

Most significantly, the court ruled that the extrajudicial measures to combat terrorism in Ulster in the early 1970s were justified by article 15 of the convention, which permits derogation by a government from certain provisions at a time of public emergency threatening the life of the nation.

The court upheld complaints from the commission that over the years the British Government had not fully cooperated with the protracted investigation into the brutality allegations. But in a general preamble the judges emphasized that they had never been required to rule on terrorist activities in Northern Ireland.

Leading article, page 17

The main findings of the judges

Strasbourg, Jan. 18.—The main findings of the European Court of Human Rights on the British case are that: 1—Holds unanimously that, although certain violations of article 3 were not contested, a ruling should nevertheless be given thereon. 2—Holds unanimously that it has jurisdiction to take cognizance of the cases of alleged violation of article 3 to the extent that the applicant government put them forward as establishing the existence of a practice. 3—Holds by 16 votes to 1 that the use of the five techniques in August and October, 1971, constituted a practice of inhuman and degrading treatment, which practice was in breach of article 3. 4—Holds by 16 votes to 1 that the use of the five techniques did not constitute a practice of torture within the meaning of article 3. 5—Holds by 16 votes to 1 that no other practice or ill treatment is established for the unidentified interrogation centres. 6—Holds unanimously that there existed at Police Barracks in the autumn of 1971 a practice of inhuman and degrading treatment which was in breach of article 3.

7—Holds by 14 votes to 3 that the last contested practice was not one of torture within the meaning of article 3. 8—Holds unanimously that it is not established that the practice in question continued beyond the autumn of 1971. 9—Holds by 15 votes to 2 that no practice in breach of article 3 is established as regards other places. 10—Holds unanimously that it cannot direct the respondent state to institute criminal or disciplinary proceedings against those members of the security forces who have committed the breaches of article 3 found by the court and against those who condoned or tolerated such breaches. 11—Holds unanimously that at the relevant time there existed in Northern Ireland a public emergency threatening the life of the nation within the meaning of article 15, paragraph 1. 12—Holds unanimously that British notices of derogation dated August 20, 1971, January 23, 1973, and August 16, 1973, fulfilled the requirements of article 15, paragraph 3. 13—Holds by 16 votes to 1 that, although practice followed in Northern Ireland from August 9, 1971, to March, 1975, in the application of the legislation providing for extra-judicial deprivation of liberty entailed derogations from paragraphs 1 to 4 of article 5, it is not established that the said derogations exceeded the limits strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, within the meaning of article 15. 14—Holds unanimously that the United Kingdom is not regarded in the present case as being under international law within the meaning of article 15, paragraph 1. 15—Holds by 15 votes to 2 that no discrimination, contrary to articles 14 and 5 taken together is established. On article 6 the court: 16—Holds unanimously that the derogations from article 6, assuming it to be applicable to the present case, are compatible with article 15. 17—Holds by 15 votes to 2 that no discrimination contrary to articles 14 and 6 taken together, assuming the latter article to be applicable in the present case, is established. On article 50 the court: 18—Holds unanimously that it is not necessary to apply article 50 in the present case.—Reuter.

Bill seeks to stop terrorists evading extradition on 'political' grounds

Our Political Correspondent The suppression of Terrorism Bill, which has been introduced in the House of Commons, seeks to eliminate or restrict a possibility that terrorists will evade extradition by pleading that their crimes are political offences. The Bill, representing the United Kingdom Government's adherence to the Council of Europe Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, also seeks to ensure that contracting states at refusal to extradite a terrorist should take steps to try him, on the principle of "extra-territorial jurisdiction". On the extradition point, a memorandum explains: "The Bill facilitates the extradition on the United Kingdom to a convention country of a fugitive criminal accused or convicted of an offence committed in the United Kingdom which is listed in the convention, by including him from continuing extradition by claiming that offence is of a political character."

However, the Bill "safeguards" a fugitive against surrender if his position would be prejudiced by reason of his racial, religious, national or political opinions or on other "political grounds". Clause 2 refers to the Extradition Act, 1870, which prohibits the surrender of a criminal if he proves that the extradition for his surrender has been made with a view to punish him for an offence of a political character, or with a view to try or punish him on account of his race, religion, nationality, or political opinions, or that he might, if surrendered, be prejudiced at his trial or punished, detained or restricted in his personal liberty by reason of his race, religion, nationality or political opinions.

Both the Extradition Act and the Backing of Warrants (Republic of Ireland) Act, 1965, would be amended by the Bill to provide those additional safeguards. The Fugitive Offenders Act, 1967, which provides for extradition between the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries, as well as the other two Acts, are being amended so that terrorist offences are not to be regarded as offences of a political character in relation to extradition to convention states. A schedule sets out the offences not to be regarded as political, including murder, manslaughter or culpable homicide, rape, kidnapping or abduction, false imprisonment, assault occasioning actual bodily harm and wilful fire-raising, and six offences listed in the Offences against the Person Act, 1861. Other offences are set out under the headings, abduction, explosives, firearms, offences against property, offences in relation to aircraft ("an offence under the Hijacking Act, 1971, or an offence under Part I of the Protection of Aircraft Act, 1973"), and attempts to commit any of the named offences. The Bill also provides that where evidence is sought in the United Kingdom under the Extradition Act and the

Evidence (Proceedings in Other Jurisdictions) Act, 1975, for use in criminal proceedings in a convention country in respect of those offences, that activity shall not be considered as being of a political character. United Kingdom courts would be given extrajudicial jurisdiction over some of the offences to enable the United Kingdom to meet the prosecuting obligations of the convention. Certain of the provisions could be applied by the Home Secretary to a state other than those adhering to the convention. The state must be either a designated Commonwealth country within the meaning of the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1967, or a foreign state with which the United Kingdom has an extradition treaty. There is also discretion to apply certain provisions to the Republic of Ireland if it is not a party to the convention. All 20 member states of the Council of Europe, except Malta and the Republic of Ireland, have signed the convention. Austria and Sweden have ratified it. The convention will come into force three months after it has been ratified by three contracting states. The Government points out that the convention is not an extradition treaty; it rests on existing extradition arrangements, which it supplements. The Bill comes up for second reading on February 7.

Suppression of Terrorism Bill, presented by Lord Harris, Minister of State, Home Office (Stationery Office, 35p).

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provide a service to the public from area offices and London. Due to expansion, we require a person aged 26 to 35 with sales or management experience who the ability to earn by results well in excess of £4,000 p.a.

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579 6221

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Wanted for busy office of private college. Friendly atmosphere, good salary, good benefits. Typing ability essential, use of P.M.S.4 switchboard helpful. 5 weeks paid holiday and L.V.s. Salary negotiable.

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Could you like to control your own destiny? Do you want to develop into a professional? Do you want to work for a company that is growing? Do you want to work for a company that is successful? Do you want to work for a company that is expanding? Do you want to work for a company that is leading? Do you want to work for a company that is innovative? Do you want to work for a company that is dynamic? Do you want to work for a company that is exciting? Do you want to work for a company that is challenging? Do you want to work for a company that is rewarding? Do you want to work for a company that is fulfilling? Do you want to work for a company that is inspiring? Do you want to work for a company that is motivating? Do you want to work for a company that is empowering? Do you want to work for a company that is enabling? Do you want to work for a company that is supporting? Do you want to work for a company that is helping? Do you want to work for a company that is serving? Do you want to work for a company that is caring? Do you want to work for a company that is loving? Do you want to work for a company that is giving? Do you want to work for a company that is sharing? Do you want to work for a company that is helping? Do you want to work for a company that is serving? Do you want to work for a company that is caring? Do you want to work for a company that is loving? Do you want to work for a company that is giving? Do you want to work for a company that is sharing?

TOP W1 DECORATOR

requires enthusiastic, experienced person with initiative to run and organize decorating showroom dealing in exclusive lighters, glasses and antiques. Salary negotiable.

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Senior Secretary—

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Our Group Marketing Director is looking for a Secretary with at least five years' experience at senior management level. The ideal candidate will be aged between 25 and 40 years with a sound knowledge of office administration, first class secretarial skills and an attractive personality. Excellent working conditions, own office, electric typewriter, 4 weeks' holiday a year. Interviews to be held at Regent Street, but initial enquiries to:

Mrs. Kathleen Newton,
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LAING

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c. £4,000 p.a.

Busy young Finance Director of International Group based in City, with Insurance, Shipping and Agricultural interests, requires a competent Secretary aged 25-35. Intelligent, well educated person required, who is able to take responsibility and organise. Accurate shorthand and typing essential. L.V.s, non-contributory pension scheme.

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to the
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of the London (Pall Mall) based head office of an International Federation. The successful applicant will have all the attributes of a first-class secretary, be well spoken and educated and over 25, with a good working knowledge of one foreign language, preferably French. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.

For further information please telephone Mr. Glason, 01-930 1752.

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An experienced, well educated Secretary with impeccable basic skills and confidence in dealing with senior people, required for busy Harrow-based director of rapidly expanding international finance company. Competitive salary and benefits appropriate to this senior position.

Please write or phone Corinne Waters at:
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Havelock Place, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1ND
01-863 8631

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INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Our client, a London based Organisation, requires an Information Assistant to assist in the running of a comprehensive database of information on the various aspects of this type of work. The successful applicant will have had previous experience in the use of a computer and will be able to handle a large volume of information. The position is full time, permanent and offers a competitive salary and benefits. The successful applicant should send a resume to:

PERSONNEL SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS
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There are no opportunities in Europe and the Middle East for over-qualified men and women. Contact Brook Street Overseas, the people who really know the job. Ring 01-930 0621 now! Brook Street Overseas.

£4,250 negotiable. P.A./Sec. 25 to 35 for young Executive, small office, very varied and challenging work. Excellent salary and benefits. Apply to: Brook Street Overseas, 10, Brook Street, London, W.1.

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Required for directors of small design partnerships, based in Victoria. Very varied and challenging work. High degree of mobility. Four weeks holiday, Salary from £3,500 to £5,000. Phone Graham Day, 832 0001.

SECRETARY required for Chief of London W.1. professional organization. A responsible position with a short-term contract. Salary scale £3,500 to £4,500. Excellent benefits. Apply to: Personnel Services, 10, Brook Street, London, W.1.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE: A Top Executive position. Good formal skills and experience. To run small office and deal with all secretarial side. Pleasant and challenging work. Salary from £3,500 to £4,500. Apply to: Personnel Services, 10, Brook Street, London, W.1.

ADVERTISING AGENCY: A Top Executive position. Good formal skills and experience. To run small office and deal with all secretarial side. Pleasant and challenging work. Salary from £3,500 to £4,500. Apply to: Personnel Services, 10, Brook Street, London, W.1.

STAR AGENCY

Star Agency specialise in the placement of ambitious men and women with good retailing background in Shop/Store Management, Personnel, Buying or Merchandising.

Some of the positions we are currently handling are:

£5,000 p.a.
Branch Controller for Retail Merchandise with merchandising experience for a young fashion multiple. Will be involved in introducing new fashion lines for their shops throughout the U.K.

£6,000 + car
Branch Controller for a Ladies fashion chain. Ideally aged 30+, with previous fashion management experience. Will be based in East Anglia.

£6,000 p.a.
Due to expansion this Fashion group are now seeking an experienced Ladies Dress Buyer to buy a complete range of medium priced dresses.

For these and other positions, please call or write in confidence to Chris Lane, General Manager, STAR AGENCY, 15/17 Gt. Portland Street, London, W.1. Telephone 01-580 6725.

SECRETARY/P.A. VICE-CHAIRMAN

Our clients are in S.W.1. where the Head Office of their large group is located. A responsible position with a short-term contract. Salary scale £3,500 to £4,500. Excellent benefits. Apply to: Personnel Services, 10, Brook Street, London, W.1.

NO SHORTHAND NEEDED

CIRCA £3,500

Famous the world over this large cosmetic company, situated in superior W.1. offices needs you to become Second Secretary to their Chairman. He travels extensively world wide and the two of you will liaise throughout the Company in his absence, handle the lunch bookings, organize the wines, arrange and attend conferences. Audio ability? Then accept this appointment now.

KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH
£3,700

Become P.A./Sec. to the new ventures executive of this well known International Company. He manages their business interests within seven European countries. You will run the office in his absence, handle a little French translation and use your P.A. abilities to the full. In return you'll have a very plush office and the use of their staff shop and subsidised dining room. Top benefits.

Ring 01-493 7121 27 Old Bond Street, W.1
HUDSON PERSONNEL

FASHION CO-ORDINATOR

Reporting to the Design Director, the position will be based in London and will involve travel within the U.K. and Europe to the various shops and factories. Previous experience in the women's fashion clothing industry is essential. The successful applicant will be involved in all aspects of the organisation of the Company's Fashion Division from manufacture to retail shops and will be responsible for liaising between the design, merchandising and the design Director.

Write with c.v. to The Design Director, LAURENCE LLOYD LTD., CARNO FOWYS, SALARY FROM £5,000 P.A.

COURTENAY LINGERIE

22 BROOK STREET, W.1

This very exclusive shop with an important international clientele requires a manageress, 25-40 years, to be responsible for the daily running of the business. You should have previous experience in selling and general management, with a good fashionable appearance and kind, friendly personality. £100 p.w. Phone Mrs Allen, 629 1532.

PERSONNEL SECRETARIES

A job in Personnel as a Secretary, could be the start of a very successful career. We have clients in Oxford, London, and elsewhere who need secretaries to handle their Personnel Departments.

For more information ring 437 1125

Crone Corkill
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Secretary/P.A.

£4,000 + BONUS

required by Managing Director of Rovers Ltd in S.W.2. Best suited applicants would be in mid-20s with experience at Director level and capable of working on own initiative in medium sized company employing 45 staff.

01-385 1221

SALES ORIENTATED CONSULTANT

required by leading Kensington Health Club, preferably with health or beauty experience. Age 25-35

Phone: 01-937 5386

SALES SECRETARY/P.A.

For M.D. of Chocolate manufacturers with extensive trade association. Car driver an advantage.

Phone 969 3001

SECRETARY/P.A.

£4,000 +

Go-ahead shipping management co need an intelligent and friendly secretary to work for 2 of their Directors. Must be flexible in attitude as the job is very varied and will include the organising of functions and meetings, clients from the airport. Shorthand typing necessary, age mid 20s.

SECRETARY/P.A. W.1.
Salary neg. to start A.S.A.P.

The Senior Partner of a property co needs a good secretary with plenty of initiative who can be responsible for the furnishing and letting of flats as well as getting involved in the general running of the company. Good shorthand and typing are necessary. Age 25-35.

SECRETARY/P.A.

£3,800

Vice-President of Advertising Bank really efficient person to organise him and handle his busy office. Must be very well groomed and have director level experience. Good shorthand and typing essential. Age 25-35.

BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY
£4,400 neg.

We have been asked to find a secretary with fluent Spanish to work in busy office near Cannon Street/Bank. Average shorthand, must have good personality and be able to deal with clients from abroad. Age 25-35.

SECRETARY/RESEARCH ASSISTANT

W.1. £3,500 + excellent fringe benefits

Head of busy planning department needs a person with good education (Economics if possible) in extremely friendly team. Average shorthand typing but ability to get involved in research very important. Good grooming necessary. Age 21+. We also need career minded P.A./Sec. with similar level competence to work out of London and abroad. These positions are only for the Greater London area. We can now also offer many short term assignments.

For further details please call 01-625 7385/8553
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES LTD.
73 New Bond Street, London, W.1.
Interviews by appointment only
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KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH

£3,700

Become P.A./Sec. to the new ventures executive of this well known International Company. He manages their business interests within seven European countries. You will run the office in his absence, handle a little French translation and use your P.A. abilities to the full. In return you'll have a very plush office and the use of their staff shop and subsidised dining room. Top benefits.

Ring 01-493 7121 27 Old Bond Street, W.1
HUDSON PERSONNEL

Executive Secretary

Must be proficient in shorthand and typing, able to compose letters, handle confidential material, liaise with other staff and work with the minimum of supervision for a U.S. executive.

Some French desirable but not mandatory.

Telephone R. L. Graham on 01-892 4433
KAISER ENGINEERS & CONSTRUCTORS INC.
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ASSISTANT/RESIDENT SECRETARY

Salary £350-£450 per month
Board and Lodging

Requirements:

1. Well educated (to diploma of College/University, Department of Business or Commercial).
2. Foreign language-English and a knowledge of German, French or Spanish desirable.
3. Age max. 35.
4. Must be clear headed, healthy (not have an upset stomach, etc.), kind, cheerful and have a driving licence.
5. Work.

1. Marital status (In Europe and all other countries) stated at all times to help my study of the English language.

2. Subsequently to help my company set up a commerce section, I'd my company in Japan.

3. I'm a Japanese with good English aged 28, with my daughter aged 28.

Please send address, telephone number, passport and curriculum vitae by post to:

Mr. Oshima Minami,
c/o Credition Ltd, London
W10 1HP.

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01-235 8434

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Need a top class Secretary for their Treasury Insurance Group. 10 years' experience in a leading oil company. Excellent salary and benefits. Apply to: Personnel Services, 10, Brook Street, London, W.1.

LANGUAGES?

If you are a Secretary with good skills looking for a job, you should consider the possibility of working for a company that needs a Secretary who can speak more than one language. We are in contact with many companies who require bilingual secretaries, some of whom are active in the international field. We have a number of exclusive jobs that which you will find very attractive. Please send your resume and curriculum vitae by post to:

Mr. Oshima Minami,
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Conveyancing central
West End. £3,700 p.a.
Ring 930 0202

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for international bank, c. £350 per month. Excellent opportunity for first class typist who does not need fluent German. Please ring V.P.N. Employment (Acy.), 01-283 6022.

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Busy international practice located in modern office seeks secretary with good formal skills and experience. Excellent salary and benefits. Apply to: Personnel Services, 10, Brook Street, London, W.1.

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Well educated individual (preferably graduate) required to provide full secretarial and support services in Alameda Street offices for 2 directors of a major Scandinavian group.

Applicants should be aged 25 upwards, have good shorthand/typing speeds and some commercial experience and also be capable of conducting own correspondence. Working knowledge of French (or other European language) is highly desirable; as is ability to receive visitors. Substantial salary commensurate with experience.

Phone 01-937 3274 Mr Nygren

QUALIFIED SECRETARY

Accurate shorthand and typing and an interest in figure work would be required, knowledge of Greek language an advantage but not essential.

Please address your c.v. and state salary expected to
Box 0453 K, The Times.

PUBLISHING EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

An Assistant with enthusiasm, adaptability and above all, a liking for job involvement is required by a Map Publishing House. Job involves liaising between cartographers, printers, design artists and authors and some figure work. Typing essential, shorthand and languages desirable. Previous production or editorial experience an advantage. Travel in the U.K. and possibly abroad may be entailed, so a current driving licence, few less are a distinct advantage. This is an important long term appointment. Salary negotiable. Please write with curriculum vitae to:

Mr. R. F. A. Edwards,
Managing Director,
Map Publishers,
27A Floral Street,
London WC2E 9LP.

AMERICAN COLLEGE DIRECTOR SEEKS SECRETARY/P.A.

Friendly and attractive, young person with excellent typing, shorthand, and good correspondence skills needed now with the American College in London. Active in the U.K. and abroad. Frequent dealings with lecturers and students. Salary and benefits at University level help.

Salary £3,500
Call MR E. VICENT,
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Salary £3,500
Call MR E. VICENT,
330-1168 TODAY.

LEGAL SECRETARY

Conveyancing central
West End. £3,700 p.a.
Ring 930 0202

FRANKFURT

2 audio typists

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AMERICAN LAW FIRM

Busy international practice located in modern office seeks secretary with good formal skills and experience. Excellent salary and benefits. Apply to: Personnel Services, 10, Brook Street, London, W.1.

SECRETARY FOR ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS

PA Secretary to small office in Covent Garden. Admin. and general secretarial work. Excellent salary and benefits. Apply to: Personnel Services, 10, Brook Street, London, W.1.

PARLIAMENT, January 18, 1978

Conservative MP puts PM's views on picketing into legislative form and wins vote to bring in the Bill

House of Commons

MR Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury, C) was given 187 votes to 181 to bring in a Bill to restrict picketing. He said his Bill would give the Home Secretary power to restrict picketing to a limited number of persons, authorised and identified by the trade unions concerned, and to organise separately those who wished to demonstrate in support.

The Bill simply sought, he went on, to enact the desires of the Prime Minister, whose views were, he said, on June 23 when answering questions in the Commons: "I hope that legitimate pickets properly identified can be allowed to operate. Those who wish to demonstrate in support of the workers who have been dismissed at this factory should be dismissed at this factory and clearly distinguished from the pickets. That would make the job of the police very much easier in trying to sort out this dispute."

He also said: "I believe it is necessary to separate legitimate

and authorized pickets from those who latch on to it.

As the Bill simply sought to enact the desires of the Prime Minister, the Bill was short and non-controversial. (Cheers and laughter.)

A short Bill should give effect to the suggestion that those who wished to picket should inform the police of the names of the limited number of representatives who would form the picket line—10 or 12 at each entrance to a factory or office. The Bill would also allow the police to identify those who wished to demonstrate in support of the workers who have been dismissed at this factory should be dismissed at this factory and clearly distinguished from the pickets. That would make the job of the police very much easier in trying to sort out this dispute."

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He also said: "I believe it is necessary to separate legitimate

Devolution of oil and all energy matters considered dangerous and inconsistent with unity of UK

When the Scotland Bill was further considered in committee, Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East Scot Nat) moved an amendment to Schedule 10 (Matters within legislative competence of Assembly and within powers of Scottish Executive) to bring the oil, gas, electricity and coal industries, in relation to exploration, development, production, transportation, distribution, safety, health, and research, within the oversight of the assembly and particularly within the oversight of a committee of the assembly to look at energy sources and energy industries in detail.

He said that if the assembly was to be elected and set up, it would be a committee of the assembly, which would have the power to make decisions on energy matters. He said that if the assembly was to be elected and set up, it would be a committee of the assembly, which would have the power to make decisions on energy matters.

The United Kingdom was fortunate in the energy resources it had. By 1980 they would be self-sufficient in all forms of energy, he said. He said that if the assembly was to be elected and set up, it would be a committee of the assembly, which would have the power to make decisions on energy matters.

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Lord Wolfenden defends 'modest and realistic' report on voluntary bodies

House of Lords

The future of the voluntary organizations was the subject of a report by Lord Wolfenden, which was described as 'modest and realistic'.

The report was based on a survey of 1,000 voluntary organizations, and found that they were playing an increasingly important role in society.

Lord Wolfenden said that the report was 'modest and realistic' because it did not make any grand claims, but simply set out the facts.

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Dr Owen does not want Ethiopian dispute to become East-West issue

Dr Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab) said that he did not want the Ethiopian dispute to become an East-West issue.

He said that the dispute was a local one, and should be resolved by the parties concerned.

Dr Owen said that he was not interested in the dispute becoming an East-West issue, as that would be a distraction from the real issues.

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Suggestion of 'sell-out' on fishing resented

Suggestions of a sell-out in the current EEC fishing negotiations in Brussels were resented by Mr. Gordon Mackenzie, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Mr. Mackenzie said that the suggestion was a distortion of the facts, and that the UK was doing its best to protect its interests.

He said that the UK was not a sell-out, and that it was standing up for its principles.

SNP proposal 'would meet economic separation'

As reported in later editions of The Times yesterday, Mr. Douglas Crawford (Perth and Angus, Scot Nat) said that the SNP proposal for economic separation was a realistic one.

He said that the proposal was based on the fact that Scotland had its own economy, and that it was time to recognize that.

Mr. Crawford said that the proposal was not a sell-out, but a realistic assessment of the situation.

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Immunity of foreign states in civil courts

The primary purpose of the State Immunity Bill was to give statutory force to the law on immunity which foreign states enjoyed from the jurisdiction of civil courts in the United Kingdom.

The Bill was introduced by Lord Chancellor (Lord Evers of Ladbroke, C), and was supported by a large majority.

The Bill was designed to clarify the law on state immunity, and to ensure that it was applied consistently.

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Work on assembly building

Work on the Royal High School in Edinburgh for the proposed Scottish Assembly would be completed by the end of the year, it was announced.

The building was designed by a team of architects, and was intended to be a modern and functional structure.

The work was being carried out by a private contractor, and was expected to be completed on time.

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All-party tributes to Mr William Small

Tributes were paid to Mr William Small (Glasgow, Glasgow, Lab) who died last week.

Mr Small was a long-serving member of the House of Commons, and was known for his integrity and dedication.

His death was a great loss to the Labour Party and to the country.

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Newspaper's apology to the Speaker

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said he had received a letter from the newspaper expressing regret that the caption in the newspaper might have been misinterpreted.

The newspaper had apologized for the error, and the Speaker had accepted the apology.

The Speaker said that he was pleased to see that the newspaper had taken the error seriously.

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The Speaker said that he was pleased to see that the newspaper had taken the error seriously.

The newspaper had apologized for the error, and the Speaker had accepted the apology.

Nine must speak as one on foreign policy

The economic crisis, which revealed the vulnerability of Europe and its dependence on cooperation with the rest of the world, it was a sharp reminder that cooperation was essential for the future of the continent.

The crisis had shown that the member states of the European Community must speak with one voice on foreign policy.

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Science report

The question of using myelin basic protein for therapy against multiple sclerosis (MS) was discussed at a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.

The meeting was held in Washington, DC, and was attended by scientists from around the world.

The scientists discussed the latest research on MS, and the potential of myelin basic protein as a treatment.

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25 years ago

From The Times of Saturday January 17, 1953.

In the sphere and on the news of the week, the British press was divided into two camps: those who believed that the British were a great nation, and those who believed that they were not.

The debate was a heated one, and it was clear that the British people were divided on this issue.

Medicine: Multiple sclerosis tests

A new drug that Dr. J. S. S. is reported to be testing for multiple sclerosis (MS) was discussed at a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.

The meeting was held in Washington, DC, and was attended by scientists from around the world.

The scientists discussed the latest research on MS, and the potential of the new drug as a treatment.

The new Toyota Celica



For the bachelor who has everything. Including a wife, kids, dog and a mortgage.

Being a family man doesn't mean you have to be seen driving a family saloon.

Especially now that Toyota have introduced the new Celica Liftback.

A sports car that accommodates the whole family, the bank manager and your longing for high performance motoring.

Like the world's most stylish cars, the new Celica was designed using a wind tunnel.

Resulting in better performance, better stability, better fuel consumption and, as our picture witnesses, better looks.

It's more roomy inside. There's an extra 90 mm of shoulder room for instance.

The luggage area is 55% bigger. And driver visibility has been increased by 35%.

Yet for all this, the overall length and width has barely changed at all.

Needless to say, the new Celica is fast. With the two litre engine it has a top speed of 110 mph.*

And like all Toyotas, the new Celica's standard equipment reads like a catalogue of extras for other cars.

Five speed gearbox. Cloth-covered reclining front seats. Cloth-covered rear seats that fold individually to give you even more room. Wall to wall carpeting including a carpeted luggage area. Inertia reel seat belts. Tinted glass.

Two speed wipers with intermittent wipe and built-in washers. Rear windscreen wash/wipe. A LW/MW radio with a

vandal-proof aerial built in to the rear windscreen. Steel-braced radial tyres.

And a dashboard that, for once, is laid out so you can see it. Instead of being hidden behind the steering wheel.

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Ronald Butt

Immigration, and the dangers of the Catholic Church listening to the left

Mr Praful Patel, Secretary of the Committee on United Kingdom Citizenship, and more vaguely described as an immigrant leader, is nothing if not a British judge. After a week in which the demands of more than 100 Labour MPs and the pressure of the race relations lobby have brought about the unprecedented situation in which a British judge has been asked to rule on political reasons for trying one (and one only) category of cases, Mr Patel felt no need to mince his words.

On Sunday, he spoke on BBC radio about newspaper reports of the Conservatives' plans for a tighter effective control of further immigration. "The whole package to me stinks of a dangerous election gimmick," he said. "The Tories seem to have made no impression on the minority community votes in this country, and it seems to me that they are now trying to capitulate on the National Front resurgence."

Leaving aside the well-known indications that the National Front actually takes more votes from Labour than from the Conservatives, Mr Patel is plainly wrong in implying that the Conservative policy in this matter is in some way related to the resurgence (if such there is) of the National Front.

The pledge that a Conservative government would have a tighter and tougher immigration policy, since this is essential for the sake of good relations between the immigrants already here and the indigenous population, was announced by Mr William

Whitelaw in 1976. There is nothing new in the principle of the matter, and nothing buried in the plans which Mr Keith Speed is responsible for preparing.

However, it now appears that any tightening of immigration control is unacceptable to Mr Patel and his friends, and if I may say so without being hauled up somewhere to face a charge of something or other, their reaction stinks to me not simply of hysteria but of provocative arrogance.

Mr Patel has already made a certain political mark some time ago, by telling Mr Callaghan that if the Government changed its policy on immigration Labour would lose the next election—with the implication that the support of the immigrant community won it the last.

That itself was a dangerous game to play. If it comes to the next election, with the implication that the support of the immigrant community won it the last, in order to defeat policies that the majority of people want, it will quickly be found that, by the facts of arithmetic, the majority will have the best of the encounter, the only result of which will have been to sour the atmosphere.

But far more worrying even than the prospect of such a clash is the danger to the nation as a whole that threatens from some of the truculent attitudes now being struck by the race relations missionaries. Let me give an example of this.

Sunday "religious" programme on TV dealt with the shortcomings of the churches and the white Christian community over what is called "race". Its general tone was one of castigation. Race relations missionaries dismissed efforts by the churches to educate people gently in these matters as patronizing, and even suggested that the church should become "much less charitable".

The Bishop of Truro wisely counselled moderation, and trying to carry people along by education in such a way as not to alienate them, rather than forcing them to behave and believe in certain ways by "banging them on the head". But his sensible approach aroused little sympathy from, for instance, a black former monk, who thought that the church wouldn't get very far unless it gave a lead in "exposing the racist assumptions that white people come to church with".

What these "racist assumptions" are; whether they are simply the reasonable wish to avoid further problems that are likely to result from continued immigration, whether they are the modest desire of many ordinary people to preserve the basic characteristics of their society and culture, or whether they mean actual hatred of people of other races (which I should have thought was extremely rare) was not stated—and there is food for thought in this analogy.

But the message of this particular participant was this: "You cannot move towards racial harmony without making a hell of a lot of people very uncomfortable." Yet I should have thought myself that making a hell of a lot of people uncomfortable (as if many of them were not, in this matter, uncomfortable already) was one of the most dangerous recipes for racial harmony.

All this, however, is as nothing compared with an amazing statement issued this week by the Catholic Commission for Racial Justice (described as "an advisory body to the Roman Catholic Bishops" on race and community relations). It delivered its anathema against Judge McKinnon in words so intemperate and foolish as to be scarcely believable.

By wishing Mr John Kingsley Read well for the future, therefore suggesting to him, "Go ye therefore and preach the word of the Lord," the Commission is clearly stating that his sympathies are not with the black and immigrant communities. It is frightening to think that there may be other judges and magistrates with similar views who act accordingly.

Quite apart from the curious notion that Mr Kingsley Read was being addressed metaphorically in an obscure English and Latin phrase, the Commission is clearly stating that his sympathies are not with the black and immigrant communities. It is frightening to think that there may be other judges and magistrates with similar views who act accordingly.

would keep out of trouble in future: it is a grotesque travesty of the interpretation of the law as an exhortation to propagate hatred.

And what conceivable sense does it make to "think" that there "may" be other judges with "similar" views (what views precisely?) who act "accordingly"? Yet this nonsense was a prelude to a demand that the Judge should resign and a call to "all Roman Catholics to express their rejection of such dangerous attitudes on the part of our judges."

The Catholic Commission for Racial Justice will be contacting the Members of Parliament who are Roman Catholics. "Well, they are likely to receive some dusty answers from those Catholics who are also Conservatives," Mr Norman St John Stevas, for example, who is very far from being an illiberal figure, told me yesterday that he was absolutely furious with the statement which, he said, had absolutely nothing to do with Catholicism but was simply left-wing propaganda.

The Commission, after all, purports to be a body advising the Bishops and in some sense to public opinion are interpreted automatically as racism. Yet this is increasingly happening, even in respect of immigrants without a legal right to stay here. The articulate campaigning of the race relations lobby should go into the Commission, and ask themselves how much more harm they are doing than good.

It is not for me to make a judgment on that allegation, but it is one that ought to be publicly known. But it is possible for all of us to make an assessment about the dangerous nonsense now being put out from so many pseudo-religious quarters with both exacerbates discontent in the immigrant community, and raises resentment among the rest.

Serious damage has been done in the matter of Judge McKinnon. It is not that he should be immune from criticism. I thought some of his observations in the Kingsley Read case unwise. I have also myself criticised the terms in which he dealt with a case about the age of consent, but it would be wholly wrong for politicians to have called for his resignation on that account.

A wise judge will profit from public criticism. But he should be secure from pressures for his resignation over the result of particular cases—especially from the politicians. What has happened is constitutionally dangerous.

It is also extremely dangerous when political proposals for dealing with immigration in response to public opinion are interpreted automatically as racism. Yet this is increasingly happening, even in respect of immigrants without a legal right to stay here. The articulate campaigning of the race relations lobby should go into the Commission, and ask themselves how much more harm they are doing than good.

Will Israel this time choose peace rather than territory?

Talks with President Assad, President Sadat and Palestinian leaders in the last few days convince us that there will be no peace unless the United States has the determination to intervene much more powerfully than it has done so far.

President Sadat, although evidently shaken by the Israeli attitude over the previous days, had still some hope that with the overwhelming support of world opinion his boldness would be rewarded. "You can not," said Lloyd George, "take two steps across an abyss," and President Sadat's spectacular initiative broke the diplomatic impasse.

But the Israeli response has been disappointing and, on the issue of the settlements, either insensitive or deliberately provocative.

Crises of these settlements—including the United States—have always said they were obstacles to peace. And here was Israel proving their point by enlarging her settlements and deciding to make new ones at a crucial period of the negotiations.

Yet such activity fitted in with the Begin plan for the West Bank. By referring to Judea and Samaria instead of to the West Bank, the plan was to ensure the presence of Arab Jerusalem in Israeli hands. This plan for so-called autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza in fact ensures the permanence of Israeli colonial rule there by laying down the security and public order will continue to be the responsibility of the Israeli authorities.

The extension of Israeli settlements in Sinai does have an explanation which is consistent with the desire for peace of a Jew. The logic of Israeli policy is understandably enough a separate peace treaty with Egypt. Such a peace would not produce a peaceful Middle East. Because of the area, the hardening of Arab attitudes, disillusionment with the West, and a swing towards the Soviet Union, a separate peace would carry great dangers and be contrary to Western interests.

But taking Egypt out of the Arab line, it would decisively weaken the Arabs. Israel's present conduct in Sinai therefore may be designed to force President Sadat into a separate peace. After showing him how difficult it will be to get back Sinai, they may magnanimously offer to dismantle the settlements and withdraw from the whole peninsula, provided he stops worrying about Jerusalem, the Palestinians and the Syrians.

If so the Israelis are greatly underestimating President Sadat, as indeed are many of his fellow Arabs. He told us with great conviction, as he has told the world, that he has no intention of making a separate peace which concerns only Sinai.

Part of his object is, of course, to remove the Israelis from Egyptian territory and by early warning systems, demilitarized zones, to provide both countries with security from attack. But it is an integral part of his aim to sign with the Israelis and the Americans a declaration which embodies three principles: full peace and security between Israel and the Arabs; full Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 frontiers; and self-determination for the Palestinians.

Obviously there are dangers in such an approach. The Israelis might even the most explicit declarations of principle as mere bits of paper to be haggled over and then ignored. But plainly the President could not enter into detailed negotiations over, say,

the Golan Heights. That he left to President Assad is left to President Assad. President Assad remains convinced that Israel will, in the necessary concessions, with the Arab front, temporarily at least, profoundly disappointed, to approach a Geneva conference in an orderly manner.

President Sadat has taken away a number of important cards in exchange for the of a positive Israeli response. That hope has already proved unfounded," he says. He would no doubt be happy to be proved wrong, but he emphasized forcefully peace remains his objective.

The PLO finds itself particularly unattractive to its moderate leaders who are grouping forward to recognition of Israel in exchange for acceptance of a right of Palestinian self-determination and the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank. But after such a dictatorial statement by Yasser Arafat, the PLO has been forced to be increasingly rejected position.

In spite of this and of recent PLO action issued after the Tripoli conference, our talks with leaders lead us to believe the moderates, provided some encouragement to the West, would probably be able to ensure the acceptance of compromise solutions. So long as the right of Palestinian self-determination is guaranteed and even Israel withdrawal assured, link with Jordan is not a problem.

In fact, the question whether there should be independent Palestinian or whether the West Bank Gaza should be part of a federation with Jordan is a glibly non-issue. The only real issue is the Palestinian state could be a threat to Israel is palpably absurd. The Palestinian state would comprise only 20 per cent of Palestine, it would be economically weak, it would be a liability to the Arab world, and the overpopulation objective is to Israel rule and to Arab control. Full self-determination can come later.

At the end the choice of Israel remains. President Sadat reminded us: peace territory. In the past Israel chosen territory while such fully confusing the issue. However, with the whole watching the choice apparent for all to see.

Dennis Walters and Ian Gilmo. The authors are members of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British understanding.

Lloyd George, and the stroke of fate that put a stop to a Lib-Lab pact

On Saturday Mr David Steel will meet the assembly of the Liberal Party. Some of them, it seems, may call in question his general support for the Labour Government—now known as the Lib-Lab pact. This is a not unfamiliar encounter, Liberals and Conservatives are traditional enemies. This raises no difficulties. Liberals have very rarely supported a Conservative government. The only exception in recent years was when the Parliamentary Liberal Party momentarily supported the Eden administration over Suez. Liberal members achieved the extraordinary record of voting for the Government on Tuesday and against it on Thursday. Their earlier action was obviously resented by the Liberal rank and file who were against the Suez policy.

Since they became the third party in the state the Liberals have always been confronted with a difficult choice. For the vast majority of their supporters the Conservatives have always been the main enemy. This presented no difficulty in earlier years. The pre-First World War Liberal Government was returned to power with Labour support. Mr Gladstone,

then Liberal Chief Whip, agreed with the Labour leaders. In some constituencies Labour members were returned with Liberal votes. Elsewhere, vice versa. But the country was ruled—and successfully ruled—from 1906 to 1914 by a Liberal Government with effective Labour support. Thereafter various situations arose, but the Liberals held the balance.

In 1924 they voted to elect a Labour Government under Ramsay MacDonald. Had it not been for the personality of MacDonald this understanding might well have continued. But the Campbell case ensued and the Government fell.

Then came the general election of 1929. Again there was a clearly divided Parliament. The electoral figures read as follows: Labour 288, Conservative 260, Liberal 59, Independents 8.

After the immediate defection of Sir William Jowett, who became Attorney General in the Labour Government, the Liberal group was reduced to 58. Nevertheless they still held the balance. They were not the time-servers of the Government. They voted against some of its principal measures, notably the Coal Bill. But most of them still intended to maintain a Labour

Government in office. This led to a growing revolt. There were a few dissident Liberal leaders, such as Sir John Simon and Mr Walter Runciman. As the Parliament went on there were other rebels.

The dispute came to a head at the Liberal conference held at Buxton, Derbyshire, in May 1931. The Parliamentary Liberal Party had opposed the Government on various occasions but still wished it to continue in office. There was a considerable division. On one side was Sir John Simon and Mr Walter Runciman, both of them backers of Lloyd George. When the Liberal conference assembled there was a wider revolt. The principal rebels against the leadership were Mr Ernest Brown and Mr Leslie Horne-Belisha.

Mr Brown was the Liberals' greatest professional. During the war he had achieved the rank of lieutenant, and thereafter he was described on Liberal posters as "Lieutenant Ernest Brown". Mr Horne-Belisha was a strange political figure. He had won a notable victory in the West Country in 1923 and 1924. He was a brilliant orator. His career was destroyed in 1940 when he was shot down in the City of London. Otherwise he might well have become leader of a political party or a Prime Minister.

It was these two, together with others—J. M. de Rothschild and Geoffrey Sheehey—who led the revolt against the Liberal leadership. They tabled a motion declaring the independence of the party. Clearly this was a challenge to Lloyd George. Two thousand Liberal delegates assembled at Buxton.

It was a remarkable day. In the morning Lloyd George addressed the conference. He said: "I had to leave before lunch ended. It had started late so that it could end late, in the hope that Mr Magnusson would turn up to collect his Pipeman of the Year award. I am told this is exactly what he did do—literally with only seconds to spare."

But, to the supporting player. Before lunch, Sir Harold Wilson, voted Pipeman of the Decade, told me a story that (pace the lunch organizers, had nothing to do with pipes.



Lloyd George and Horne-Belisha: a revolt that failed.

good any question he was the greatest political orator of our time, as he was in his most brilliant form. Quoting a phrase of Lord Oxford, he said: "There are some who say look neither to the right nor to the left but keep straight on."

A delegate shouted: "Hear, hear..." Lloyd George fastened upon him: "Ah, my friend, before the war there was a great ship which set out on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic. A message came over the ether, there are icebergs on the course you are pursuing. But the captain looked neither to the right nor to the left; he went straight on. Let me say here and now I am opposed to Titanic seamanship in politics, and as an old mariner I would not drive the ship on to the icy floes that have drifted into the North Sea. If the National Liberal Federation in its wisdom this afternoon decides to take another course [Voices—Hear, hear] I would advise my friends to put on

their lifebelts and plant their deckchairs as near as possible to the bows; unless, of course, any of them have already made arrangements to be picked up. [Cheers and laughter and "Rub it in!"]

This was Lloyd George at his most effective and it swept the conference. The only questionable note was in his final peroration when he spoke of the Liberal ship "presuming its bill of lading at the Great White Throne."

When Horne-Belisha rose in the afternoon he was already defeated. Nevertheless, he delivered a defiant speech ending with the words, "If you pass this amendment you have destroyed the Liberal Party." The amendment supporting Lloyd George was overwhelmingly carried.

There was later an echo of this debate in the House of Commons. On May 20, Sir John Simon referred to Lloyd George's peroration with icy scorn, pointed out that a bill of lading was a document given not by a ship but to a

ship, and was scathing about "the mixture of bad law and the Book of Revelations".

The rejoinder came in a debate on July 20. Lloyd George spoke from his place on the Opposition front bench below the gangway. Simon was sitting in a place away from him. Lloyd George, pointing at the floor, said: "Better men than he have changed their party and crossed that floor of the House of Commons. But none has done it leaving such a slimy trail of hypocrisy behind him."

The affair nearly led to a Liberal-Labour understanding. In the last days of July 1931, Lloyd George had a meeting with Ramsay MacDonald. Afterwards he dictated the following memorandum to his secretary, Frances Stevenson.

Generally speaking, Labour would like an alliance. They would be willing to drop certain of their present Ministers. . . . Ramsay would be Prime Minister. Lloyd George would be Leader (of the House) at the Foreign Office or the Treasury. Ramsay thinks he can adjourn early in August and resume late in the autumn, and then continue till the next Budget. No fear of immediate election. It might be contemplated that the Army, Air and Navy join up under one Ministry. . . .

At this stage Lloyd George was suddenly taken ill. If the Liberal-Labour alliance had been different, everything might have been different. For example, Lloyd George would never have accepted the surrender to Mussolini over Abyssinia. There might have been no Second World War.

Lloyd George in effect disappeared from the scene—to the detriment of history.

Dingle Foot

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

Monitoring the news—with a slight lapse

It was a classic example of *Hamlet* without the prince. Luckily, it offered a strong supporting role. Otherwise, the visit to the Pipeman of the Year lunch yesterday might have been a write-off.

Fog kept the champion puffer in the air, somewhere between Glasgow and Heathrow, when he should have been at the Savoy top table.

It was ironic in a way that the empty seat ought to have been filled by Magnus Magnusson, for everyone who watches *Mastermind* knows about that programme's empty chair, and the inquisitorial glint that comes into Mr Magnusson's eyes as his victims lower themselves into it.

I had to leave before lunch ended. It had started late so that it could end late, in the hope that Mr Magnusson would turn up to collect his Pipeman of the Year award. I am told this is exactly what he did do—literally with only seconds to spare.

But, to the supporting player. Before lunch, Sir Harold Wilson, voted Pipeman of the Decade, told me a story that (pace the lunch organizers, had nothing to do with pipes.

The *Christian Science Monitor*, buying to get his subscription, recently sent him a circular with the salutation: "Dear Executive". No one who



wanted to keep up with the news could afford not to read the newspaper, it said. Another circular, followed, this time headed: "Dear Reader" (though Sir Harold was not one) and again singing its own praises as a vital channel of up-to-date information. Both circulars were addressed: "The Rt Hon Wilson, Harold, 10 Downing Street."

On the lid of the *Airfix* game *Flight Deck* is the instruction: "Make sure the flight line is taught . . ." It does not say by whom.

The roots finder comes to town

Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that ilk arrived in London off the night sleeper yesterday and put up at the Turf Club, which is news to set eyes sparkling in clubland as brightly as the arrival of Gally Threefour himself. Sir Iain is in town on business as well, to take up his new post as chairman of *Debut*'s Peerage.

He is one of the most learned and witty genealogists in the family tree-climbing business. He is *Albany Herald*, and a member of the American Society of Genealogists, a group so exclusive that it has only 50 members, and thinks that is too many.

In between shaving and changing into his town tweeds, Sir Iain said: "As a Scotsman,

I know better than most how deeply attached people are to their roots. As chief of my clan, I get letters from Moncreiffes all over the world. There's a Moncreiffe in prison in the United States who writes to me: rather a nice chap."

"With Scots, we can tell them that this was their tartan, this is their chief, this is the stronghold around which their ancestors clustered."

"I am pretty good at Japanese genealogy. I have been interested in it since I was 11. Go on, try me." I made my excuses, and left.

Under its new chairman, the family tree business is branching out, for example, to revisit with Alan Ross the U and non-U controversy that he started with Nancy Mitford a generation ago.

Mel Blanc's animal crackers

Mel Blanc is an American human being who spends much of his time pretending he is a woodpecker, or a rabbit, or a mouse, or a cat. Anyone who will at the mere mention of anthropomorphism will probably have him. The rest will regard him, as I do, as a master at his own highly specialized art.

Mr Blanc has provided the voice for 12 cartoon characters such as Bugs Bunny, Woody Woodpecker, and Sylvester the Cat. He is 70 now and is in London to play a feline feline in a series of cat food commercials.

At the Hilton yesterday, he talked to sundry humans, two cats (one from *The Sandow Times*) and a collie from the television programme *Blue Peter*.

He has appeared in a film only once, as a South American canine chat, a claim proved by a transcript of his dialogue, and he told me that first got his name on film credits as a substitute for an increase in pay. Dogs, he said, respond enthusiastically to his brand of canine chat, a claim proved by a transcript of his dialogue, and he told me that first got his name on film credits as a substitute for an increase in pay.

Ups and downs of Mr Maxwell

One way and another, it has been seven days of triumph and disaster for Robert Maxwell. Being the resilient man he is, he has taken both in his stride and was able to tell me about his fluctuating fortunes yesterday with that rock-like calm that makes his rivals grind their teeth in envy.

First, the disaster. The Oxford offices of Mr Maxwell's Pergamon Press were badly damaged by fire and vast quantities of orders and records were burnt. Actually, Mr Maxwell did not learn about the blaze until he arrived in Delhi. He was over there to help launch Pergamon's latest prestige publication, the *Brezhnev* biography about which I wrote in this *Diary* a few months ago. He got an order for 10,000 copies of the paperback edition.

That was the triumph. Or at least part of it. When in Delhi, he also managed to get Mr Desai, the Indian Prime Minister, to agree to contribute his autobiography to Pergamon's

Leaders of the World series. Others who have already agreed include President Carter and Dr Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General.

The launching of *Brezhnev* hook really began London last week, when Mr Maxwell and Mr Luntov, Soviet envoy in London, joined a party at the Sov. embassy. By all accounts, was a star-studded affair. Lord Simon, Sir Fitzroy Maclean and John Davies, Tory spokesman on foreign affairs, all conspicuous in the galaxy.

Royal flavour

My Welsh affairs correspondent tells me that there has been great drama at the Royal Mint in Llantrisant. A steward has been convicted of stealing several thousand pieces and smuggling them through security checks. Trades union documents (which are not searched, by agreement) are not searched, by agreement.

Is this, at last, the terminus with a hole in it? Or a my cynical Welsh friends riot when they describe Llantrisant as the bolt with the mu therio?

A newcomer expected on the magazine stands shortly is quaintly titled *Trouser Press*. It is not a competitor to Tailor and Cutter though, because it describes itself as "America's only British Rock Magazine". If you find this confusing, you can learn more by a transatlantic call to Trouser Press's Rockline on 0101-212-35496. It will cost you only a few pounds, but it will bring you the latest "update" on unheated British groups and a free playing of a hard-hitting ditty called *You Make Me Shake*. It does, at least, make a change from the talking clock and cricket scores.

For its 37th Film Meeting, to be held in April 1978, the International Film, Television & Documentary Market (MIFED) will re-issue its Information Booklet.

First published eighteen years ago, this Booklet has proved to be an advertising medium of undisputed world-wide importance. An essential guide to the Film Meeting, it also serves as a reference work right through the year. It contains the names of the films taking part in MIFED and the names of their representatives at the Film Market. The titles of all films submitted are listed by categories.

The Information Booklet is issued free of charge to the increasing number of customers using MIFED. In addition, over 3000 copies are sent to the principals of production and distribution firms operating in the film business.

An advertisement in the Information Booklet is a worthwhile investment and one that always brings in good results.

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A DISPASSIONATE JUDGMENT

"Torture" over was the right word for the treatment inflicted on fourteen IRA suspects by the security forces in Northern Ireland in one week in the autumn of 1971, treatment which has been condemned first by the European Commission on Human Rights and now by the Court as an infringement of the European Convention. "Torture" is an ultimate word. It denotes those practices, like the rack, electric shock, beating to the point of surrender, the purpose of which is to inflict such pain that terror of its continuation or repetition breaks the victim's will to resist interrogation.

That is not the purpose of the techniques of sensory deprivation, which formed the main subject of complaint by the Irish Government against the British Government, nor must it be the result. The purpose is to induce a state of temporary disorientation and distraction of the will in which the victim may be more easily led by his interrogator. It induces stress, it inflicts pain, its effects may not wholly disappear when the pressure is lifted, it ought not to be practised or condoned, but it is less than torture, and it is a good thing that the European Court of Human Rights has said so.

The procedural articles of the European Convention on Human Rights allow ample scope for what is called a "friendly settlement". Once the British Government had admitted fault, had

withdrawn authority for the use of the techniques in question, had indicated that it would not be restored, and had made ample financial compensation to those who had been subjected to that form of interrogation, the Irish Government could well have settled. Even more should it have settled when the European Commission on Human Rights found in its favour on the main point. But no; it insisted on dragging the proceedings out to the bitter end.

It was difficult to avoid the supposition that the Irish Government (it was not Mr Lynch's but its predecessor) persisted for a domestic political reason and in order to maximize a propaganda advantage over Britain. The reasons which it published or supplied were of course higher sounding: the implications of the case for the security of human rights were of an order that called for the authoritative judgment of a court over and above the findings of a commission; and there were other claims arising out of the proceedings with which it did not succeed before the Commission and which it wished to pursue before the Court in the name of justice.

It has achieved nothing by doing so. True, the techniques of sensory deprivation have been pronounced by the Court to be an infringement of the Convention on Human Rights, as well as found by the Commission to be so—if the Irish Government believes that duplication to be of

practical importance. But the methods have been downgraded to the list of prohibitions as "inhuman and degrading", which deprives Irish propagandists of the headline-grabbing word "torture" and is already inspiring counter-propaganda in Ulster to the effect that the misdemeanours of the security forces have been vastly exaggerated.

Nor has the Irish Government won before the Court any of the points it lost before the Commission: internment without trial is not in the circumstances condemned as an infringement of the Convention; it is not judged to have been implemented in a discriminatory way; and the claim that the British Government be required to bring criminal proceedings against individuals responsible for the use of the condemned methods of interrogation is not upheld.

The Irish Government has another reason to regret the persistence of its lawyers. Its appearance in Strasbourg is not quite as knightly at the end as it was at the beginning. Early last year serious and supported charges were made in the Republic concerning the interrogation practices of a specialized unit of the Irish police. They showed prim facie an "administrative practice" similar to those which formed part of the Irish Attorney General's dossier of allegations against the Royal Ulster Constabulary. An indecently considered and public report on those charges is still awaited.

DISPUTED OCEANS AROUND THE HORN

The remote islands at the southern tip of South America would seem to be an unlikely setting for the eruption of a territorial dispute. But Argentina has now let it be known that it will probably reject the decision of the international panel of judges which awarded Chile the three islands at the mouth of the Beagle Channel; and it has deliberately raised the temperature by giving publicity to the naval maneuvers it recently began in the area. Chile has reacted by recalling its ambassadors throughout Latin America in order to make a bid for diplomatic support for its case. There is no reason to suppose that the two countries will necessarily come to blows—and good reason for hoping that they will not—but the crisis shows the seriousness with which the military governments of both see the issue. After several weeks of mounting tension, President Pinochet of Chile and President Videla of Argentina are to make a new attempt to reach a settlement at a personal meeting outside Mendoza today.

Legally, the dispute is a complex one which has its roots in the nineteenth century and the treaties which attempted to delimit the long frontier between Argentina and Chile. But politically it is much simpler because it concerns, not so much the three islands, Picton, Lennox and Nueva, as their offshore waters. After the award was given in its favour last May,

Chile announced that it was laying claim to an economic zone which extends 200 miles out into the Atlantic from the three islands, and also from some other islands farther south, which it also claims. It is the claim to this economic zone, and not so much the loss of Picton, Lennox and Nueva, which are of little interest in themselves, that Argentina finds intolerable, and that it is now trying to block.

No one really knows whether the economic zone is valuable, since it has hardly been explored. But it is thought that it could be rich in fish, and that there might be offshore oil; the Argentines are already drilling off Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia, to the north. But there is also the further point, which appears to be the one that rakes most with the Argentines, that if the Chilean claim was accepted it would establish a Chilean presence in the Atlantic for the first time. The Argentines lay great store by a principle enunciated in an agreement signed in 1893, that while they were to be regarded as a purely Atlantic power, Chile was to be a purely Pacific one. The Chileans, on their side, maintain that the principle only applies to the continental frontier with Argentina, and not to the islands farther south.

The Beagle Channel runs along the southern shore of Tierra del Fuego, and was first discovered by Captain Robert FitzRoy on a voyage in 1828-1830. He named

it after his ship, the one that Charles Darwin travelled in on a later voyage. To the south of the channel there are further islands, stretching all the way to Cape Horn. The trouble for the Argentines is that in a treaty they signed with Chile in 1881, they agreed that all the islands to the south of the Beagle Channel, all the way to Cape Horn, should belong to Chile. It was this principle which was applied by the international tribunal when it awarded Picton, Lennox and Nueva to Chile, and which is used by Chile as the basis for its claim to the islands farther south.

Since the tribunal's award, the Argentines have tried to negotiate with Chile. They have offered to accept the award, and acknowledge the three islands as Chilean, provided that Chile renounced any claim to an economic zone to the Atlantic, and also its claim to several of the small islands farther south. But Chile has not been prepared to give ground, since it is confident that it has a strong legal case; and so the Argentines have begun to bring pressure through their military and naval preparations. In this area, they probably have the edge, since they are a larger and richer country, and since Chile also has to watch its northern borders with Peru and Bolivia. But the Argentines must be aware that by being seen as bringing military pressure on a decision of an international tribunal they are hardly improving their case.

Animal experiments

From Professor Sam Shuster
Sir, Until last year the Home Office has not required a full breakdown of animal usage and so it has not been possible to know for basic reasons what proportion was concerned with medicine. Anti-vivisection societies have assumed that because just under one third were known to be for medical purposes the remainder was not. This is the origin of the allegation that over two thirds of the 31 million animal experiments done annually are for cosmetics and "commercial trivia".

Now that for the first time we have some hard facts and they clearly show something different. Mr Ryder (letter November 28) and his friends want them to go away. The Home Office's pilot survey of over 86,000 experiments showed that 75 per cent were directly for medical purposes and that 90 per cent of the remainder were for basic research related to medicine such as bacteriology and tissue transplantation. About half the experiments were from a group chosen at random and half were chosen with respect to certain aspects of the form which were to be studied. But even if we take only the random half of the survey the numbers are large enough to be statistically sound. The figure is such that their order of magnitude is now quite beyond dispute. So is the conclusion that the vast majority of animal experiments in this country are concerned with medical research.

Indeed we now have direct confirmation from an independent survey which showed that the number of animals used by the cosmetic industry is less than 1 per cent of the total (Hansard, House of Lords, February 22, 1977, column 18). The unambiguous basis for the present vivisection campaign is at best an appalling error.

Mr Ryder's irritation with the facts is as understandable as his sense about the anti-vivisectionists' assumptions which they have now replaced. But whilst I hope that Mr Ryder can be convinced by facts I am more concerned that they become known to those who had been misled by the stories that millions of animals were being massacred for "vanity". Now I hope the best of us taken out of the debate, and that it is the pressure for more mechanistic control which arose in the error.

animal research today. And of these I believe the most important is not the comparatively few done for non-medical purposes, nor the essential fundamental animal research which we do all too little, but the large numbers of experiments done for statutory requirements, evolved in the erroneous belief that more animal tests means more and safer drugs.

Yours, etc.
SAM SHUSTER,
Department of Dermatology,
The University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
The Royal Victoria Infirmary,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
January 10.

Pupils with O levels

From Mr R. J. Montgomery
Sir, Your educational correspondent commented on the recently published *Education Statistics for the United Kingdom* in your issue of January 10 and stated that "half of pupils left without an O level". Would it not improve the nation's morale to have such news served up to positive rather than negative form? "Half of pupils left with an O level" would have provided a briefer headline, and would encourage the teachers who have striven to raise the educational standards of the masses to the levels of the educational elite of a previous generation. I have long suspected that journalists falsely believe the only interesting news is bad news and that their contributions are unhappily slanted to providing this commodity.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. MONTGOMERY,
Stowmarket High School,
Osoehouse Road,
Stowmarket,
Suffolk.
January 10.

Selling potatoes by name

From Mrs A. W. Lyle
Sir, I should like to draw Mr Robb Smith's attention (letter, January 14) to "The British Potato Wall Chart" presented free, my copy tells me by the potato growers of Great Britain in association with *Woman and Home* magazine. This chart gives details of 20 British potato varieties, including their suitability for various cooking methods.

I acquired my copy of this useful

chart from the Potato Marketing Board along with a book called *Country Collection* which contains six pages of introduction and over 100 pages of potato recipes—nothing mentioning that there are different varieties of potato, far less suggesting those which might best be used for any particular recipe.

If the Potato Marketing Board is not itself sure about the importance of distinguishing among varieties it is perhaps unfair to grumble about the retail dealer: but in this part of the country it is usually impossible to buy a specific variety of potato from a greengrocer or a supermarket. There are "reds" and "whites", occasionally differing in size or price, and that is that. Any attempt to choose further is met with a blank stare.

A study of Mrs Elizabeth David's already published works will show that she is only too well aware of the British Potato Problem. I should wholeheartedly welcome any further contribution she may make to the literature on the subject, but as long as we have to buy potatoes in a poke it will not be to much purpose. Can no one find an EEC directive to the effect that the variety of potato on sale must be divulged? It would be more welcome than most.

Towards nuclear disarmament

From Mrs Elizabeth Young
Sir, You and your leading article, "Brakes on the nuclear spread" (January 16, 1978): "a more satisfactory long term answer (to the question) to be applied by the Nuclear Suppliers' Group" would be to encourage France and other countries to put their weight behind the Non Proliferation Treaty, and to work for eventual disarmament". It is the last six words and only the last six words that are important. That is the lesson Mr Carter showed in Delhi he had not yet learnt and Mr Callaghan showed he had.

As you say, the Nuclear Suppliers' Group has been trying to plug holes in the NPT: you could have added that the Soviet Union and the United States refused to plug those holes in 1967 and 1968 when the Treaty was being negotiated. You could also have mentioned that the non-aligned states then at Geneva pointed out again and again that a nuclear non-proliferation treaty leaving the weapons powers to their unimpeded "vertical" proliferation, would not work. Like Mr Desai last week, they were saying then that only a no-discriminatory "package" of anti-proliferation measures could work.

Soviet, American and British were dead to this common sense then—and have continued so until Mr Callaghan's enormously cheering breakthrough, last week, from the unreal world of Do-as-I-say-not-as-I-do. If Mr Carter's suggestions for real cuts in Soviet and American nuclear and other stockpiles are still relevant, they should provide the essential component to the "package".

Mr Desai was pointing at in his news conference of January 12: a complete Soviet Union/US test ban, no addition to their arsenals, and agreement on gradual reductions. Then, Mr Desai said "there will be no difficulty in accepting the safeguards the also said that "Britain as a medium power, is well situated to play the role of mediator in this matter". We should accept the role.

We will still, for many years probably, have the problem of the nuclear "scapegoats"—Israel, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, perhaps Pakistan, perhaps Brazil. . . . But it is certainly not clear that threatening to withdraw supplies from them will have any other effect than to spur them on.

Yours, etc.
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Bayswater Road, W2,
January 16.

The Moors murderers

From Mr Bruce Stewart
Sir, In my letter to you (January 5) I stated that at the time of their trial, Rebecca West described Brady and Hindley as "one of our kind". I am now informed that Rebecca West did not originate this phrase at all, and I crave the hospitality of your columns to apologize both to her and your readers.

Thank you,
BRUCE STEWART,
7 Hayes Lane,
Kenley,
Surrey.
January 14.

Drawing conclusions

From Mr Nicolas Bentley
Sir, Mr David Pryor Jones has seen fit to imply in his letter of January 13 that I am antisemitic, may I perhaps be allowed a word in answer to the charge?

It is an occupational hazard of the cartoonist that his work may be misunderstood, misrepresented or denied by those who read his humorous output from his own. It does not follow that because I may draw the Pope to circumstances that make him appear ludicrous or undignified I am anti-Catholic, any more than it shows me to be hostile towards the Scots if I sometimes show them as drunks, or to the French, the Germans, the Indians or the Chinese if I exaggerate some of their national traits or characteristics.

For my part, as I have, and have always had, a large number of Jewish friends, some of whom I love and admire, I am content to leave it to them to decide whether or not I am antisemitic, since their view, I think, is likely to be nearer the truth than that of Mr Pryor Jones, whom I am wholly unacquainted.

Yours faithfully,
NICOLAS BENTLEY,
The Old School,
Downhead,
near Shepton Mallet,
Somerset,
January 13.

Testing old cars

From Mr Anthony Peagam
Sir, With respect to Mr A. T. V. Johnson, Chairman of the Motor Agents' Association technical panel (*The Times*, January 13), there is no confusion in the AA's mind about the MoT test forms VT21 and VT22.

Revising the parliamentary system

From Sir Peter Ransome, QC, MP for Epsom and Ewell (Conservative)
Sir, In their plea for the adoption of proportional representation, Sir Anthony Bowby and others (letters, January 17) criticise the polarization of politics within the United Kingdom. Whatever may be the consequences of any change in the manner of electing MPs to the House of Commons, there is surely no doubt that such polarization is aided by the present, basically nineteenth-century, parliamentary procedures which affect control over the executive and the quality of law enacted.

Some now call for a statutory Bill of Rights. Others demand the establishment of a unicameral legislature. This Parliament has accepted the appointment of commission after commission to inquire into almost every aspect of British public life. Has not the time now come for a full scale Constitutional Conference to examine the modern role of Parliament, and to include review of the constituent parts of Parliament, its method of enacting law, the manner of election to and voting within Parliament, its relation to any devolved assemblies, and especially the "de facto" power of a Prime Minister to discipline supporters by determining the life of each Parliament? Or is Parliament the one, inviolate, sacred cow?

Yours faithfully,
PETER RANSOME,
House of Commons,
January 17.

From Mr Fred Hardman

Sir, The letter from Sir Anthony Bowby and his fellow industrial relations experts (January 17) is indeed a strange one. With some experience as an industrial relations consultant and lecturer I simply do not recognize the alleged consequences of our electoral system on industrial relations. As one involved in both politics and in unions over many years I am astonished beyond measure at the false premises on which your correspondents base their false conclusions.

Do they not accept that majority opinion in the main political parties accept the need to improve the existing social and economic structure? There are sharp differences of how to achieve the improvements and that is what party politics is about. When Conservatives opposed the Bevan welfare state we did so because we believed his plan would ultimately damage the welfare of the people. We opposed changes to the economic structure through nationalization because we believed it would injure the economy of the country to the detriment of the people. So far as a two party system obliterating centre opinion it does the very opposite. The two parties

President Sadat's words

From Mr Jon Kimche
Sir, The Middle East peace-making process is surely difficult enough without the pressing making life more difficult for those engaged in it. Last Sunday (January 15), *The Observer* reported in bold front-page headlines: "No hope for peace, says Sadat" and explained that "in an interview with the Cairo weekly October he said he now sees 'no hope at all' that the talks will result in a declaration of principles for a Middle East settlement".

The *Sunday Times* on the same day said that Sadat had "repeatedly said: 'No hope of peace with Begin, says gloomy Sadat' and explained similarly that Sadat had said that he had no hope that the foreign ministers about to meet in Jerusalem will issue such a declaration."

The *Guardian* on Monday (January 16) carried a Reuters news agency report describing President Sadat's interview in similar terms and *The Times* in its long front page report used the same phrase that Sadat had said that there was absolutely no hope of a declaration of principles being agreed upon at the Jerusalem negotiations.

In fact, President Sadat said something very different in his interview with *October* magazine. According to the text circulated by the official Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA) on Saturday (January 14) and broadcast that afternoon by Cairo, President Sadat was asked as a final question: "then what do you expect from the meetings of the political committee in Jerusalem and the military committee in Cairo?" President Sadat

replied textually, according to these reports: "A declaration is supposed to be issued asserting two principles—complete withdrawal from the occupied territories with slight amendments, as stipulated by resolution 242 of 1967, and settlement of the Palestine question from every aspect. I declare now that I have no hope whatsoever that this declaration will be issued. That is why we will have another policy."

In this answer President Sadat was clearly not abandoning hope of finding an acceptable settlement with Israel. What he appeared to be saying, on the contrary, was to warn those of his associates who had at the last moment objected to the publication of the statement of principles which he had agreed with Mr Begin at Ismailia on December 24. Here he is saying that there was no hope of obtaining Israeli agreement to the kind of statement which he specified and which some of his associates in the Foreign Ministry and the Armed Forces had insisted upon.

His concluding sentence "that is why we will have another policy" is therefore not a statement of despair but one that should give cause for encouragement and hope. For as President Sadat said in the same interview: "Let us speak very clearly. This initiative has not yet finished. It will yet have results beyond the imagination of all of us. The wheel of history has moved forward and no one can now stop it."

Yours, etc.
JON KIMCHE,
Camilla Lacey Lodge,
Westhumble,
Dorking,
Surrey.
January 17.

Civil Service pay

From Mr A. J. Pettit
Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Kenneth Baker, MP (January 16), is inaccurate in two respects in referring to "the deduction, currently 1.5 per cent, of which the Civil Service salaries to allow for inflation proofed pensions". Firstly, the current deduction is not 1.75 per cent, but 7 per cent ("vide" *Hansard*, August 4, 1976, Written Answers, Col 806). Secondly, public service pensions (which, he noted, cover many others formerly to the public service, not only civil servants) are not inflation proofed but inflation linked. They are adjusted on December 1 each year to the cost of living of the previous July, and then continue unchanged for one year. So when inflation rose at 20 per cent annually, the pension increase started 10 per cent behind the cost of living, and by the end of December 1 was 30 per cent behind that cost. This system can hardly be called inflation proofing!

I am Sir, Yours faithfully,
A. J. PETTIT,
150 Palace View,
Brumley,
Kent.
January 16.

Explaining psychic effects

From Mr G. L. Playfair
Sir, Dr John Worrall (January 11) is mistaken in believing that 00 professional magicians have yet been involved in a test with subjects such as Uri Geller. In June, 1975 Geller was studied in Atlanta, Georgia, by Arun Zorka and Ab Dickson, of the Society of Ameri-

Control of V & A Museum

From Lord Goodman, CH, and Lord Gibson
Sir, We would like to give support to the view which has recently been ventilated urging that the Victoria and Albert Museum should be transferred from direct governmental control to the control of an independent board of trustees appointed by the Government. Almost all the important museums and cognate institutions are so run and it does seem clear that a trustee constitution is in many ways better suited and would produce better results than the present method of conducting the museum.

These views are not designed to be critical of the Department of Education and Science which has inherited the present system. It is, however, in our view self-evident that the detailed consideration as to how a museum should be run is much better undertaken by an independent body charged with that sole and solitary function than by a government department harassed by the demands of a great number of charges. There does not appear to be any cogent justification for continuing this anomaly.

It is certainly within our knowledge that many of the staff of the museum and those otherwise connected with it are dispirited by the situation and would feel a great sense of encouragement if the change were to be made. It may well be that this is the most important consideration, namely the psychological effect on the people working in the museum. It is not the only consideration but it is one of great importance since a sense that the Government are directly interfering in matters which are immune from such interference elsewhere cannot but damage enthusiasm.

Yours faithfully,
GOODMAN,
GIBSON,
House of Lords,
January 18.

From Mr Hugh Leggart

Sir, May I draw attention to the tragic dilemma of the Victoria and Albert Museum at the present time. Neither the imminent closure of up to a third of the galleries on any one of its opening days, nor the closing of the entire Museum on Fridays, nor the dismantling of its service to the region, nor its other privations would have happened at all if it were a trustee museum and not a sub-section of the Department of Education and Science.

Several all responsible bodies in the world of letters and the arts must join a petition to government for the V & A's immediate reconstitution as a trustee museum, giving it the same status and independence as the British Museum, the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGART,
Honorary Secretary,
Heritage in Danger,
30 St James's Street, SW1,
January 14.

Licensing photocopying

From Mr J. D. Patterson
Sir, Derek Brewer's letter (January 16) on photocopying and the price of books obscured the causes for the duplication habit which he so deplors. To imply that the major reason for the frequently massive increase in academic book prices is to be found in the increased proliferation of the Xerox machine is to overemphasize its significance grossly. Far more serious is the escalation in raw material, transport and labour costs throughout the publishing industry. These are the factors which result in a decrease in the number of academic books sold and in the consequent justified, pusillanimity of publishers who drastically reduce the book numbers in any one edition while maintaining or increasing existing prices to maintain profit margins.

Soaring prices are a problem not only for the private buyer, but, more importantly, for many university libraries which budgets cannot keep pace with the increased cost of maintaining the highest standards of book availability. In this inflation ridden age many in the academic community must be proud and grateful for the use of a machine which allows them cheap, leisurely, and in the main, convenient access to rare or unavailable material. (I think Mr. Brewer exaggerates the number of "rogue" Xerox machines available in this country; Mr. Brewer's point, as well taken; but I would suggest that an increase in the habit of photocopying is, first and foremost, an effect and not a cause of increased book prices and smaller editions.

Yours sincerely,
J. D. PATTERSON,
25 Wellington Square,
Oxford.
January 16.

Coach and Concorde

From Mr Philip Short
Sir, How delightful it was to see your photograph of a Concorde aircraft together with an East Anglian mail coach this morning.

By consulting a recent reprint of a 1831 Newcastle guide one can see that the present postal service in London from here is about the same now as it was then. Except on Fridays the mail coach departed every night at 9.30, arriving in London at 6 am on the morning after next.

How agreeable it would be if, inspired by your illustration, the Post Office were to return to the use of horses to improve the postal connection with London in these more distant regions. With improved roads, pneumatic tyres and a better class of horse, much could be done. Maybe we could then catch the night mail even if we did not after 5.30 pm?

Yours faithfully,
P. SHORT,
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering,
The University,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
January 16.

Volume control

From Mr J. H. Fernor
Sir, When industrial action prevented us from seeing the book programme advertised for BBC 2 this evening, we were instead shown a documentary film depicting Russians unable to buy the books they wanted to read. Congratulations to the BBC on their superb irony.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. FERNOR,
6 Pound Street,
Warminster,
Wiltshire,
January 14.

Relief from stamp duty on takeover

Chelsea Land & Investment Co Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Goff and Sir David Cairns [Judgments delivered January 17]

A claim for relief by a company from duty imposed by the Stamp Act, 1891, on the increase of its share capital and on instruments of transfer whereby it acquired the entire share capital of an unlimited liability company, was allowed because the relieving provisions of section 55(1) of the Finance Act, 1927, did apply to the transactions.

The Court of Appeal, Sir David Cairns dissenting, so held in allowing an appeal by the taxpayer company, Chelsea Land & Investment Co Ltd, from a decision of Mr Justice Fox refusing it relief on the ground that the provisions of section 55(1)(b) had not been complied with (*The Times*, March 2, 1977).

The Crown was granted leave to appeal to the House of Lords conditional on its not seeking to discontinue the court's order as to the taxpayer company's costs in the Court of Appeal.

In 1973 the taxpayer company, a limited liability company, agreed to purchase the entire share capital of Cadogan Holdings Co, an unlimited liability company, for £44,000. The taxpayer company completed the purchase by increasing its own share capital by issuing 1,409,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each and then, by three instruments of transfer, having the share capital of Cadogan transferred to it in return for the allotment of the 1,409,000 shares to Cadogan shareholders in proportion to their holdings. The commissioners refused the

taxpayer company's claim for relief under section 55(1) from (1) capital duty paid under section 112 of the Stamp Act in respect of the increase of its share capital and (2) ad valorem "conveyance or transfer on sale" duty in respect of the three instruments of transfer. On appeal by the taxpayer company, Mr Justice Fox upheld the commissioners' decision that the transactions could not come within the relieving provisions of section 55(1) because Cadogan, being an unlimited company, was not a "particular existing company" for the purposes of section 55(1)(b).

Mr C. N. Beattie, QC, and Mr Gregory Hill for the taxpayer company; Mr Peter Gibson for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE BUCKLEY said that to obtain relief from duty it had to be shown that the conditions set down in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of section 55(1) had been complied with. The dispute only concerned paragraph (b) which provided for relief only if the taxpayer company could be shown to have "increased its capital with a view to the acquisition of not less than 90 per cent of the issued share capital of any particular existing company".

What did "company" mean in the expression "any particular existing company"? Mr Justice Fox, who was much influenced by the Court of Appeal decision in *Nestlé Co Ltd v IRC* (1958) 1 Ch 395, held that it meant a company in respect of whose capital, capital duty was payable under sections 112 and 113 of the Stamp Act and consequently did not extend to an unlimited company because no capital duty was payable in respect of such a company.

In the *Nestlé* case foreign companies were held not to be "existing companies" for the purposes of section 55. But having regard to the particular facts of that case, in particular the fact that all the companies concerned were limited companies, and the particular nature of the question raised, his Lordship was of the opinion that their Lordships were not in any way bound by that decision. It had not been necessary for the court on that occasion to probe further into the possible operation of the section and decide whether an unlimited company could qualify as "any particular existing company".

It was accepted that the transferee company (the taxpayer company) in the present case had to be a company with limited liability (section 55(1)(a)), but there was no compelling reason for holding that a "particular existing company" needed to be a company with limited liability. Indeed, the fact that paragraph (b) did not say so in terms pointed the other way. The words "particular existing company" were wide. Accepting that they must be read as referring to a British company, why should they not bear their natural meaning of an existing company of any kind incorporated under English law?

True, if the company had no share capital, no exemption from capital duty would be available, but that would not result from placing a restricted meaning on "particular existing company": it would result from the measure of exemption imposed in paragraph A. Further it was necessary to look at the amendment to section 55(1)(A) introduced by section 41 of the Finance Act, 1930, and ask

why it had let in cases in which the transferee company was a pre-1880 company which had never paid capital duty: should it not also let in cases in which the transferee company had never paid capital duty because it was an unlimited company having a share capital? Why should the provisions concerned with limiting the amount of exemption available in relation to capital duty restrict in any way the availability of exemption from transfer duty?

There was no good reason for holding that a "particular existing company" meant anything other than any company incorporated under English law. The appeal should be allowed.

Lord Justice Goff delivered a concurring judgment. Sir David Cairns, regretting that he could not agree, said that the ratio decidendi of the *Nestlé* decision was that a foreign company was not a "particular existing company" within section 55(1) because sub-section 11(A) compelled the view that the "particular existing company" should be a company liable to capital duty under sections 112 and 113 of the Stamp Act. Only a limited company was liable for such duty. It was impossible to read the language of the judgment as a whole as meaning that a company which, by some change in the law or by reason of its ability to change its character from that of an unlimited company to a limited company, could become amenable to capital duty, in those circumstances the judge should be upheld and the appeal dismissed.

The appeal was allowed with costs.

Solicitors: May, May & Merriman; Solicitors of Inland Revenue.

Power to vary sentences unchanged

Regina v Sodhi
Before Lord Justice Lawton, Mr Justice Swainwick and Mr Justice Gibson [Judgment delivered January 17]

The power to vary sentence given by section 11(2) of the Courts Act, 1971, to Crown Court Judges enables them to change not only the length of a sentence but also its nature.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal against sentence by Marjaret Singh Sodhi, aged 37, who was convicted on May 16, 1977, at the Inner London Crown Court (Deputy Circuit Judge Murray Edmunds) of malicious wounding, contrary to section 20 of the Offences against the Person Act, 1861. The judge sentenced him on that date to six months' imprisonment, and on June 10, acting under section 11(2) of the Courts Act, varied that sentence to a hospital order under section 60 of the Mental Health Act, 1959, with an unlimited restriction order under section 63.

Section 11(2) provides: "Subject to the following provisions of this section, a sentence imposed by or under any other order made by the Crown Court when dealing with an offender may be varied or rescinded by the Crown Court within the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which the sentence or other order was imposed or made, or where sub-section (3) below applies, within the time allowed by that sub-section."

Mr David Medhurst for the appellant.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the appellant, a member of a distinguished family in the Punjab, had qualified as a doctor there and had come to this country to practise. He had had

no difficulty in obtaining junior hospital posts, but there had come a time when he was no longer making a success of his career. He had become depressed and had started indulging in eccentric behaviour. He had no friends, lived an isolated existence, and by the summer of 1976 had started manifesting signs of a tendency to violence.

Early in the morning of January 1, 1977, there had been an incident in which the appellant had fired an air rifle at a party of people outside his room. A young woman had sustained a slight wound in the head.

The appellant had been convicted of malicious wounding and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. But his medical condition had given the prison staff cause for concern. Two psychiatrists who examined him concluded that he was suffering from a paranoid psychosis and was dangerous. The case had gone back before the Inner London Crown Court, which had quashed the sentence of imprisonment and substituted the order under the Mental Health Act.

One ground of appeal was that the judge had had no jurisdiction to vary the sentence in that way.

As the court had pointed out in *R v Grice* (unreported July 26, 1977), section 11(2) had been passed to give judges in the Crown Court the same power to vary and rescind as they had previously exercised under the common law. The power exercised at common law had been not only to change the length of a sentence but also to change its nature. Parliament had not intended, by section 11(2), to change the scope of that power. Mr Medhurst had also submitted that it was unfair to substitute

restriction for an indefinite time for a period of detention of, in practice, four months. That might seem so on a technical point, but the court had to look at all the circumstances. It was true that whereas there had been a number of cases where hospital orders had been substituted for long sentences of imprisonment, there were very few—his Lordship cited two—

where short sentences had been varied in that manner. But there were special circumstances in the present case: the appellant was dangerous, to others as well as to himself.

The Crown Court judge had therefore had jurisdiction to make the order, and on the facts had been right to make it.

Solicitors: Emmott & Levan.

Loitering with intent but no attempted theft

Regina v Hector

Entering another person's car with the intention of stealing anything that might prove worthwhile is not attempted theft but it may be loitering with intent or, if the car is empty, theft. The Court of Appeal said. The court allowed an appeal by Joseph Hector, against conviction at the Inner London Crown Court (Judge Stuckey) of the attempted theft of, inter alia, a spritometer and a clothes drier.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, who was sitting with Mr Justice Swainwick and Mr Justice Gibson, said that the appellant had used his own key to enter a parked car and was examining its contents when he was charged with attempting to steal specified items in the car. There was ample evidence of loitering with intent or going equipped for theft. It was unfortunate that he had not been charged with those offences. Attempted theft, however, was not proved if there was no intention

to steal the specified items: *R v Eason* ([1971] 2 QB 315).

If the appellant had been looking at the property to see if there was anything worthwhile to steal, the jury would not be entitled to convict him of the offence charged. The judge had not directed the jury that the absence of an intention to steal the specified items was a defence to the charge of attempted theft.

The failure to direct on that defence meant that the jury had not been given the opportunity to consider it and, in those circumstances, the verdict was unsafe. Accordingly the conviction would be quashed.

Their Lordships' decision, however, was not a charter for pests like the appellant in big cities to go round stealing from unattended cars. If they behaved as the appellant had done they were likely to be convicted of an offence. In the present case, however, the prosecution had failed to prove the charge.

Power to adjourn

Regina v Roberts

The power of a judge to defer sentence given by section 1 of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act, 1973, is not a substitute for the power to adjourn a case to another court. Lord Justice Lawton said in the Court of Appeal when quashing a sentence of three months' imprisonment passed on the appellant, James Thomas Roberts, for driving while disqualified.

The appellant, who had a bad criminal record, had appeared before Judge Cole in Croydon Crown Court, having received a deferred sentence from that court after pleading guilty to 10 counts of theft, forgery and related offences, and, later, from a court in Liverpool, which had deferred sentence on convictions of driving while disqualified and another offence and then immediately transferred those proceedings to Croydon.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, who was sitting with Mr Justice Swainwick and Mr Justice Gibson, said

that there had been some confusion in the Croydon court as to whether sentence had really been deferred by the Liverpool court or whether there had only been a transfer of the proceedings. Judge Cole had taken the view that it must have been the latter, and imposed a three-month term of imprisonment for driving while disqualified.

In fact there had been a deferred sentence in Liverpool. It followed that the appellant was entitled to suppose that if he committed no further offences in the meantime (which was the case), he could not be given a custodial sentence.

The court would therefore have to quash the sentence of three months, though it did so with great reluctance. The problem would not have occurred if the Liverpool judge had simply transferred the case to Croydon. Judges were reminding to overlook the fact that the power to defer sentence had not taken away the power to adjourn.

Archaeology report

Greece: Mycenaean island shrine

The discovery of a sanctuary with rich and varied cult equipment dating from the Late Bronze Age is the most striking result of excavations at Phylakopi, on the Greek island of Melos, undertaken by the British School of Archaeology and completed last August. The excavation, started in 1974 to re-examine the Bronze Age town on the Cycladic island of Melos, was originally planned to last for two field seasons. Its aim was to study more closely the entire sequence of deposits revealed in the first excavations by the British School at Phylakopi, completed in 1959. The discovery of the sanctuary in the first season immediately altered that plan, and work there has been completed only at the end of the fourth season.

The sanctuary dates to the Mycenaean period, its first phase of construction beginning about 1360 BC. Only one other well preserved cult building of that period with significant finds was previously known, the shrine at the great citadel of Mycenae, discovered by Lord William Taylour in 1968. A further cult building has recently been excavated at the citadel at Tiryns by Dr Kurt Kilian, of the German Archaeological Institute.

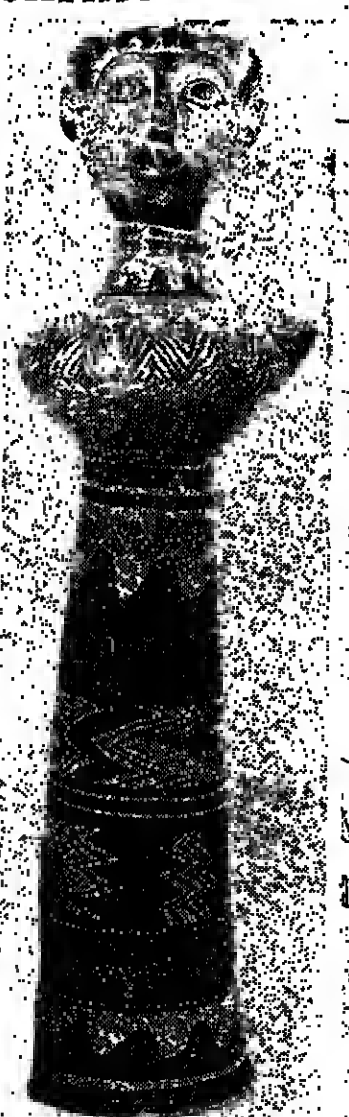
The cult area at Phylakopi consists of two buildings linked by a small courtyard. The east shrine, discovered in 1974, is a small room measuring 4.8 by 2.2 metres, with a low stone platform or altar in the north-east corner. It was there that the first small clay figurines were found, and then a conch shell and fragments of ostrich egg, and a small human head in sheet gold, all testifying to the special function of the room. The east shrine was built in the Late Helladic III B period (following the terminology used in Aegean archaeology), about 1270 BC, and many of the figurines found in the lower levels of the shrine are of this date. The building and of the city fortification wall, which stood beside it, about 1220 BC.

The west shrine, where work began in 1976, proved to be a larger room, measuring 6.6 by 6.0 metres, with two smaller rooms opening off it at the western end. It was built about 1360 BC and was likewise damaged in the collapse about 1120 BC. At that time some of the most impressive of our finds were buried, including a series of five male terracotta figurines up to 35 cm high. Most of the cult figures previously discovered have been women, and the find helps to rectify what has hitherto seemed somewhat of a female chauvinist bias in Mycenaean cult practice.

The most striking finds of the excavation were made last year, however, in a small room west of the west shrine. The splendid pottery figure of a goddess, perhaps a worshipper stands 45 cm high. She is in surprisingly good condition, and only the arms are missing, apparently an occupational hazard for Melian goddesses.

The surface is smooth and glossy, like the best Mycenaean pottery, cream in colour, with red painted decoration. The whole body is round in section, while the head is beautifully modelled, the eyes turned upwards in a fervent gaze. The Lady of Phylakopi may be claimed as the most attractive of all the human terracotta figures yet to be found in the Mycenaean world. In the opinion of Dr Elizabeth French, who is making a special study of the Phylakopi figurines, she was made on the mainland of Greece, perhaps in the region of Mycenae, within a few decades of 1350 BC. In the same room five pottery figures of bulls were found, standing no to 40 cm high.

Hitherto little has been known of the settlement sites of that period in the Cycladic islands, at a time when the influence of mainland Greece was dominant in the Aegean. The evidence at Phylakopi, with its fortifications, a small palace of megaron plan and



The Mycenaean goddess found at Phylakopi.

the newly discovered sanctuary may allow the reconstruction of a clearer picture of the political geography of the time. The site is generally much richer some three centuries earlier, when Cretan power was at its height, documented by recent finds from Agia Irini on Kea (including a temple with large terracotta clay figures) and, above all, from Akrotiri on Thera, completely destroyed in the great eruption of about 1500 BC.

Phylakopi has also yielded good evidence for that period. The fortification walls seem first to have been built there, and the excavation has produced clear evidence of a mansion, a large structure preceding the megaron or palace of the succeeding Mycenaean period.

A much clearer picture is emerging of the Cycladic islands in the Late Bronze Age. The sanctuary at Phylakopi continued in use, after very late in the Mycenaean period, and the settlement there was abandoned, like so many in the Mycenaean world, at the onset of the Dark Ages. Specialist studies continued in association with the excavation, including a site survey of the island of Melos, are shedding much light on the civilisation and other changes of the time which contributed to the decline of Mycenaean civilisation. The sanctuary at Phylakopi remained in use through much of the period of disintegration, offers new evidence of religious practice in the Aegean at that crucial time.

By Professor Colin Renfrew, Southampton University. Director of excavations at Phylakopi. © Times Newspapers, 1978.

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Japan promises tougher trade safeguards ahead of tariff talks

From David Blake
Economics Correspondence
Tokyo, Jan 18

Japan is willing to accept a significant toughening of the safeguard clause covered by Article 19 of the Gatt code in next week's round of trade talks in Geneva.

This concession was revealed today by Mr Nobuhiko Ushiba, Minister for External Economic Affairs. But senior Japanese officials later indicated that they would want strong multilateral surveillance of any use by countries of the tougher clause.

The provision of greater protection to countries threatened by imported goods has become a principal part of the Japanese negotiating position in the Tokyo round of talks, more formally known as the Multilateral Tariff Negotiations. These talks are designed to bring about a worldwide reduction in tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade.

British negotiators have recently indicated that they will insist that any such reduction in trade barriers must be accompanied by more effective rules to assist nations from unfair competition. The United Kingdom has, in recent years, argued that it has been unfairly victimized by exports from Japan and other countries of many products including cars and television equipment.

Japanese officials argue that they are on the side of the United Kingdom because the country is also threatened by unfair competition from newly industrialized nations such as Korea and Taiwan.

Toyota boosts exports of cars by record 15.9pc

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Jan 18

Toyota today contradicted official claims that the appreciating yen would help to reduce Japan's huge trade surplus by announcing that car production and exports rose to record last year.

In spite of a 22 per cent rise in the value of the yen over the last 12 months, Toyota, Japan's leading car manufacturer, reported 968,270 cars last year, 15.9 per cent increase over the previous year, a company spokesman said today.

At the same time Toyota also raised its export boom in all car markets. Exports of regular size trucks rose to 115,161 units, representing an annual increase of 23.6 per cent.

Toyota produced 2,720,758 vehicles last year of which just over 50 per cent were exported. At about the same time, its major rival, Nissan, expects its exports will rise by a small margin of 2.3 per cent to 1,227,000 units, 860,000 cars and 367,000 commercial vehicles.

A Nissan spokesman said the high value of the yen had helped the company's major overseas markets. However, Toyota, which enjoys a startling productivity rating of 51 cars per worker per year, announced that exports rose to a monthly record of 133,359 units in December, a 30 per cent increase over the same period in 1976.

Conversely, the increase in the value of the yen has done little to raise the volume of imports of foreign cars. In contrast to exports of 4.3 million vehicles last year, only 41,565 were imported, an increase of 0.8 per cent. Britain, which imported about 120,000 Japanese cars last year, sold 58,000 Japanese cars, six fewer than the previous year.

Joint deals by clearers put on restrictive list

By Our Financial Staff

A wide-ranging document on the future of accounting standards in the United Kingdom is being prepared.

Mr Tom Watts, a senior partner in Price Waterhouse and chairman designate of the Accounting Standards Committee, heads a committee which is preparing a paper on whether the committee should be empowered to issue standards and to enforce them. The committee will look into the possibility of widening the membership of ASC outside the profession and the workings of the committee's processes which are to be produced before a final decision is made.

The London Society of Chartered Accountants is independent, ending out a question on the way accounting standards are produced to help own working party, headed by Mr Ken Cardener, Finance Director of Dunlop, on the subject.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 199.46 +0.97
The FT index: 476.3 +5.4

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.73	1.68	1.68
Austria Sch	30.75	28.75	28.75
Belgium Fr	65.50	62.50	62.50
Canada \$	11.46	11.46	11.46
Denmark Kr	7.95	7.70	7.70
France Fr	9.36	9.04	9.04
Germany Dm	4.28	4.06	4.06
Greece Dr	9.20	74.50	74.50
Italy L	174.00	165.00	165.00
Japan Yen	485.00	460.00	460.00
Netherlands Gld	4.85	4.32	4.32
Norway Kr	11.00	10.50	10.50
Portugal Esc	91.00	85.00	85.00
S Africa Rd	2.27	2.14	2.14
Spain Pes	164.00	158.00	158.00
Sweden Kr	9.27	8.92	8.92
Switzerland Fr	4.02	3.90	3.90
US \$	1.97	1.91	1.91
Yugoslavia Dnr	40.00	37.75	37.75

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by the Bank of England. Bank of England's discount rate, 12 per cent. Bank of England's base rate, 12 per cent.

Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1415.7 (previous 1415.2).
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Earnings jump hits hope of meeting guidelines

By Melynn Weslake

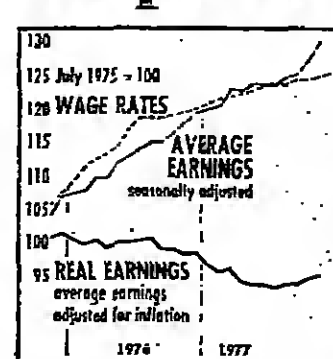
The likelihood of earnings rising in line with the Government's guidelines, now looks increasingly remote. New figures, published yesterday clearly show a return in the underlying pace at which earnings from employment are increasing.

This is in spite of the fact that an increasingly larger proportion of wage settlements are claimed by the Department of Employment to be within the guidelines. Some 95 per cent of all major wage agreements since August 1 are said to satisfy the Government's current pay policy, against 80 per cent a month ago.

The most notable breaches of the policy are still those reported from the Ford and Vauxhall settlements. However, it still remains true that many fewer workers have yet agreed new pay deals in the current bargaining round than at this time last year. In the first four months of the 1977-78 bargaining year, only some 20 per cent, or 2.4 million, of all those workers expected to be covered by major settlements had yet concluded deals.

By this time a year ago, the proportion was 35 per cent. However, it is clear that Whitehall has been immensely heartened by the settlements concluded with the local authority manual workers and the firemen.

Even so, the official index of average earnings (the old series, which is being replaced by a new index) has risen some 4.8 per cent since August 1. If this rate of increase was continued throughout the whole year, earnings would show a rise a little in excess of 15 per cent in November alone, there was



a rise of 1.9 per cent. This was one of the highest monthly rises for some time, and compared with increases of much less than 1 per cent a month during the summer.

The acceleration becomes apparent when the rise in the past three months is projected at an annual rate. This under-

lying rate of increase is now 15.9 per cent or four times higher than the underlying rate of 4.2 per cent seen last June.

However, Whitehall officials are pointing out that the current pattern is remarkably similar to that which occurred last winter. What happened then was that a marked acceleration in the earnings index at about this time in 1977, was followed by an equally sharp deceleration. Furthermore, the index appears to have been boosted in November by the inclusion of back pay for some groups of workers who had delayed their settlements.

In this connection, employees in the banking and chemical industries are cited. The effect of the inclusion of back pay in the earnings index is for a once-and-for-all jump. However, Government statisticians are not publicly quantifying this influence.

This could partially account for the upturn in the index, although it is probably not a sufficiently big factor on its own. Another influence on the index, over and above the regular increases in pay, will be the various productivity deals that have been arranged recently. These must inevitably be restricted to fairly limited groups of industries, mostly manufacturing. Their ultimate impact is therefore unlikely to be all that great. But they remain another factor.

Yet, even if the rate of increase in earnings during November proves to be exceptionally high, an eventual output for the year of less than 10 per cent now seems to be totally unrealistic. Equally, it still remains possible that the final figure could be significantly less than 15 per cent.

Table, page 24

Industrial output at year end below 3-day week levels

By Caroline Atkinson

British industry's output at the end of last year was still below the levels reached in the three-day week of 1974.

The latest official figures for industrial production show that there was a slight rise in both manufacturing and total industrial output in November. However, the rise was not enough to push production up to the level reached in September.

The sorry tale of continued stagnation in British industry does not come as a surprise. Although there is now some evidence from the retail trade of a recovery in consumer demand, this has not yet had time to feed into production.

Exports, which rose vigorously last year, thus helping to fill industry's order books, dropped off sharply in the last quarter of the year.

The monthly figures for industrial output are usually subject to revision, and are fairly volatile anyway. Taking a longer term comparison, then, the latest figures are a faint glimmer of hope in the latest figures.

Manufacturing output in the latest three months to November was 0.7 per cent higher than the level of the previous three months. The same com-

parison last month showed a half per cent fall. For industrial production as a whole, there was a half per cent rise between the three months from June to August and the average for September to November.

However, this is only small comfort. The average level of manufacturing production in the latest quarter is nearly 21 per cent below its level in the first three months of 1977. The boost to total production from the North Sea oil activities limited the drop in overall output to nearer 1 per cent.

Rise in output at the beginning of last year was probably

in expectation of a sustained recovery in demand. When this did not materialize industry found itself building up considerable stocks.

There is some reason to suppose that instead of expanding production in response to increased demand later in the year, firms preferred to run down the level of stocks. This process may now have come to an end. Earnings output should begin to pick up quite sharply with the rise in spending which, it seems, is underway.

Production levels for both consumer goods industries and investment industries are estimated to have risen by about 13 per cent in the latest three months. This rise has been partially offset by a fall of 11 per cent in the production of intermediate goods.

The worst output performance in the latest three months has been by broad industry grouping, in the metals sector—where British Steel's problems have taken their toll. Production in these two was 2.2 per cent and 2.9 per cent respectively lower in the latest three months than the previous three.

Table, page 24

Strong hint of Budget aid to small business

By John Huxley

A strong hint that the next Budget will contain further tax concessions for small businesses was given yesterday by Mr Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Opening a conference in Birmingham on "Small Firms in Inner Cities", Mr Lever said that measures costing some £120m a year had already been introduced to assist small companies.

The granting of industrial development certificates had been made more flexible and it was intended to give some local authorities more power to assist industry.

But other measures were on the way, he promised. Among possibilities now being considered were lightening the burden of value-added tax by increasing the threshold to £10,000 and simplifying administration; giving relief on capital gains tax for losses on loans to small companies; enlarging corporation tax concessions, perhaps by increasing the profits limit and relaxing apportionment provisions; and ensuring that the purposes of capital transfer tax were fulfilled without injuring the small business.

Mr Lever said that these points related to long-standing

Chrysler switches next new car from Linwood to Coventry

By Clifford Webb

Chrysler UK will build its next new car at Ryton, Coventry, and not at Linwood, Scotland, as originally planned. This was announced to senior shop stewards yesterday and is bound to lead to protests by the Linwood labour force.

Shop stewards at Linwood have already given warning that if the new car was lost to the plant, it would be a serious setback to long-term employment prospects.

They say that since the two new cars to November they have cooperated with management in a programme designed to reduce strikes and increase output.

But management maintained

Brewers get competition warning by minister

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

A warning that the Government was determined to see greater competition in brewing was given last night by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Speaking at the presidential dinner of the National Union of Licensed Victuallers in London, he said that, as well as making less frequent increases in the price of beer, the industry had to tackle the fundamental issue of structure.

Both the Monopolies Commission in 1963 and the Price Commission last year were greatly concerned about the absence of competition which restricted customers' choice and insulated brewers from the full pressure of market forces, Mr Hattersley said.

The minister, who has sparked talks with the brewers on these issues, declared that he was convinced they were genuinely prepared to extend competition in the industry.

"I do not pretend they endorsed all our criticism," he continued, "but they certainly seemed willing to meet us on a number of important points. I hope that they were equally impressed by the Government's



Mr Hattersley: Government determined on structural change.

determination to "make progress for it is very real."

Mr Hattersley thinks that changing the industry's structure there is scope for action in three main areas. One is the ownership of so many licensed premises by the breweries and the control that gives them over licensed premises.

Another is the continued existence of local monopolies, restricting choice between public houses. Leading breweries have already gone some way to meeting this problem by swapping public houses in areas where one brewer has for historical reasons a strong concentration.

The third area for action, Mr Hattersley said, was the tied houses system, within which choice of beer was usually more restricted than either the licensee or customers wished.

But price was the most immediate and controversial issue facing the industry. There was a time, when big breweries increased prices every three months—creating much resentment during 1976 and last year—but "if ever there was a real need for such frequent increases, the time when they were necessary is past."

Inflation had been steadily falling for six months, and as the fall continued it would become increasingly difficult to justify routine price increases other than the Price Commission or the public, Mr Hattersley said.

The Commission has already announced an investigation of a proposed 2p a pint increase on most of its beers by Allied Breweries. The company is applying for an interim increase under profit safeguard provisions, and it remains to be seen how much the Commission will be forced to concede under rules which leave it no discretionary power.

S Pearson raises bid for Tussaud's to £13.6m

By Our Financial Staff

S. Pearson came back into the bid battle for London's famous waxworks, Madame Tussaud's, yesterday with an offer worth £13.6m.

This bid from the publishing and industrial group which wants to merge Tussaud's with its Chessington Zoo business, tops the best alternative offer from Associated Television by nearly £1.5m and is more than 40 per cent higher than Pearson's first offer in November.

Tussaud's board is recommending the Pearson package, which apart from the higher cash terms will allow Tussaud's shareholders to keep their final dividend for 1977 of 3.07p a share gross.

It will also give them the chance to accept an alternative offer of Pearson partly convertible stock if they wish to avoid capital gains tax liability.

Financial Editor, page 23

Belgium cuts discount rate by one point

By Our Economics Staff

A one point cut in Belgium discount rate was announced yesterday by the Belgian central bank board. The market had been widely expecting a cut, but had not expected it to be a full point.

The official discount is now 7.5 per cent and the so-called Lombard rate on current account advances is also cut from 8.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

A cut in The Netherlands' official discount rate is expected tomorrow. The Belgians were forced to put up interest rates at the end of last year when the weakness of the dollar was also putting pressure on the franc and its existence in the European joint currency float, the snake, was threatened. Now the snake is no longer under strain.

The dollar picked up against most currencies yesterday, reaching 2.1315 against the Deutsche mark and 2.0175 against the Swiss franc. The markets have been widely expecting a cut in the dollar rate this week but surprisingly the rate has not moved very far.

Sterling closed up 5 points against the dollar at \$19245, with an unchanged effective rate of 65.8.

Renault denies plan for assembly by Leyland

By Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Renault, the state-owned French motor manufacturer, yesterday denied that it was involved in talks with Leyland, Leyland through its present crisis, even if it meant building someone else's car under licence.

Edward Townsend writes: National officials of the motor industry unions are to meet Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, this afternoon to express their disquiet over proposals by British Leyland to reorganize the car division and cut jobs.

The Leyland cars plan for 1978 was outlined to the unions and shop stewards on Monday by Mr Edwards. It was greeted with hostility by union officials, one of whom described the plan as "piecemeal slaughter" of the group.

The unions requested urgent meetings with the Prime Minister and Mr Edwards.

Mr Edwards has said that the proposals must go through a series of participation meetings and be discussed at a conference between management and workers' representatives on February 3 before being submitted to the National Enterprise Board and the Government.

Best of both worlds? page 23

Economic policy statements by Mr Carter aim at strengthening confidence

Washington, Jan 18

President Carter's main goal in the numerous detailed economic policy statements he is to make in the next few days is to strengthen business confidence.

The administration's top economists are optimistic about the economy's growth rate over the next nine months, but fear a subsequent slowdown unless there is substantially greater business investment than now appears likely.

Assorted surveys made recently suggest that real investment spending on plant and equipment this year may be as low as 4 per cent, although some surveys have suggested an 8 per cent rate.

Administration officials hope this can rise to above 10 per cent, and believe such a level is needed to ensure further reductions in unemployment and the continuation in 1979 of a real economic growth rate of more than 5 per cent.

President Carter's chief advisers have urged him to respond directly in his State of the Union message on Thursday night to what they view as the prime cause of weakening business confidence, the lack of clarity by the Administration concerning its economic

policy priorities, its goals and its plans to achieve its goals.

The State of the Union address will be largely devoted to economic matters, and in it the President will spell out his goals for the remaining three years of his first term of office.

Over the next few days, the President will issue highly-detailed statements on how his objectives will be attained, including a detailed set of forecasts.

Still greater detail will be published on Monday afternoon with the release of the Administration's budget programme.

There are high hopes in the White House that all of these messages and programmes will receive strong support from the Congress, the business community and labour unions.

The President's economic advisers believe the economy will grow at an annual rate of about 5 per cent in the first nine months of this year, and they do not believe that additional fiscal or monetary stimulus is needed to achieve this rate.

They do believe, however, that stimulative measures are essential if the economy is to continue growing at such a level in the final quarter of this year and on into 1979.

Because of the administration's deep concern about the prospects for the economy from the fourth quarter onwards, almost all of the President's key proposals are intended to become effective on October 1.

Permanent tax cuts of \$25,000m (about £13,020m) are to be introduced from this date, which coincides with the start of the 1979 fiscal year.

Reforms in the tax system, which are likely to be modest and involve about \$10,000m in revenues, are also scheduled for introduction in October.

The administration's confidence in the immediate economic outlook is increasingly being shared by private economists, and on Wall Street the latest evidence of a moderate recovery is seen by some brokers as a reaction to the recent sharp decline.

The impression of a strengthening economy has been reinforced by figures published today showing that industrial output continued to gain ground in December and that it rose by 5 per cent for 1977 as a whole.

Frank Vogl

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LTWSHEARMAN,
Secretary

All-party group of MPs' report also criticizes Whitehall for denying it information

Home and foreign economic policies link urged

By Melvyn Westlake

An all-party group of MPs is calling for a Cabinet committee to coordinate British domestic and foreign economic policy. Such a move was urged on the Government in a report, published yesterday, which also sought the help of the Commons in obtaining information denied to its authors by Whitehall.

The report comes from the eight-man Select Committee on Overseas Development, under Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Essex, south east, acting chairman.

The firm recommendation that "the House should take steps to ensure" that the Select Committee obtains the information it has been seeking, comes on the heels of the row over the failure of the Government and the British Steel Corporation to provide letters sought by another Commons Committee.

Sir Bernard said yesterday that the denial of information to the committee "may not be on all fours with the attempt of the nationalized industries committee to obtain information about the steel industry, but it is a Select Committee's duty to do an adequate job they must have full access to information

including internal information".

Apart from its criticisms of Whitehall secrecy, yesterday's report reflected considerable concern about the apparent lack of strategic coordination between foreign and domestic economic policy, and among policies on aid, trade and industry, particularly long-term.

To meet this deficiency, the MPs recommended greater coordination at ministerial level, through a "Cabinet Committee on Bilateral Relations", as well as greater liaison over such matters in Whitehall and with the diplomatic posts overseas.

Sir Bernard told a press conference at the Commons yesterday that the Select Committee had found a "surprising insularity and narrow vision in British approach to relations with developing countries".

The MPs say in the report that the evidence suggests to them that inter-departmental coordination tends to take place in response to a perceived crisis of a particular issue.

"In short, it is ad hoc and short-term."

Almost by definition, however, the demands for policy formulation are "strategic and long-term".

As far as the Select Committee was able to discover, the Joint Aid Policy Committee, through which the Foreign Office and the Ministries for Overseas Development and Trade did discuss specific issues, had little to do with ensuring that aid and trade policies interacted in a mutually supportive way.

There was no forum for considering, in a coherent way, the special schemes of tariff preferences given by the industrialized nations to Third World countries. Neither did it appear that any strategic consideration was given to the developing states' demand for new commodity trading arrangements or the European Community's special trade treaties with African, Pacific and Caribbean countries.

Worried by Britain's declining share of Third World trade markets, the MPs also note that greater coordination in Whitehall could help Britain to gain more orders in developing countries, when foreign aid boosted their purchasing power.

Moreover, when aid to the poor nations increased the Third World's manufacturing potential, there was a

need for Britain to adjust to new trade patterns. But, the Select Committee was unconvinced that sufficient thought was being given to this.

The Select Committee's report goes further in calling for a coordinating cabinet committee than the Central Policy Review Staff in its recent report on the foreign service. The CPRS advised only that there should be a Cabinet Office Committee of officials—rather than ministers.

The Select Committee report also recommends that the Government should conduct an immediate review of control policy to determine the likely impact on United Kingdom trade (particularly with developing countries) of a relaxation in exchange controls.

Because of the interaction of trade, aid and investment, and the need of Third World countries for foreign investment, the Select Committee would favour some relaxation in exchange controls to possible. All the committee's 12 recommendations were made unanimously.

First Report from the Select Committee on Overseas Development. Trade and Aid Vol 1 Report. Price £1.10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why British Steel's management must be given a free hand

From Lord Layton

Sir, It is tragic that it takes a highly political and constitutional issue over the status of a select committee to bring its activities to the notice of the general public and of other members of Parliament. It will be unfortunate but, if history is any indication, more than likely that no action will be taken on the recommendations of the committee in spite of the present flush of publicity.

I refer not only to the 35 recommendations in the report which show a realistic understanding of BSC's problems but particularly to the conclusions brought forward from previous reports that interference with the working of the British Steel Corporation was excessive and that the management should be given much greater freedom to get on with its main tasks of managing. There is a real danger that the outcomes of the present issue may bring about more interference, not less.

Once the BSC and the ministry agree on broad policy, including policies regarding early closure, manning and investment, it is vital that the BSC be given a free hand, unfettered by constant interference, to carry out the policy and be made accountable for its performance.

The committee criticizes the forecasting failure of the BSC, in that it did not foresee the continuing and deepening of the recession at an earlier stage. It is clear that nobody else was in a position to do so. The BSC has been a factor completely outside the range of normal economic forecasting.

It is still difficult to predict the long-term development of

the world economy, and although the steady growth of the fifties and sixties seems to have halted, it would be most unwise to assume that we have reached a permanent plateau. Forecasting failures are not new. Few people foresaw in the late forties, the growth that was about to occur, least of all United Kingdom governments.

Steel is fundamental to growth in a developing world as it is also highly sensitive to economic fluctuations. This can clearly be seen in the results in steel industries round the world over the past few years.

It may well be that in two or three years' time pressures of another kind will restore the upward growth in a level not unlike that achieved in the fifties, with enormous impact on the developed economies both as financiers and as suppliers to the developing world.

It is still a rational concept to believe, as a result of the recent slow-down in investment, that there will be a world steel shortage in the early eighties—a shortage position of which the BSC, unless allowed an adequate investment programme now and a programme of substantial closures and retooling of the remaining plants in the best standards of our competitors, will be unable to take advantage.

There are two aspects vital for the future of the BSC and for its remaining employees. First, without major investments in both hot strip and plate, BSC will be unable to meet industry's quality requirements. Such investments must be pushed ahead at full speed.

Even with a massive reduction of 50,000 as has recently been suggested, the BSC tonnage output per man in a good year would still be too small and would be only half that of Nippon Steel. This indicates the seriousness of the BSC situation

both as regards its competitiveness in the international market and as the competitive British supplier of this basic material to a major part of British industry.

I would and my letter, Sir, with a plea, not only as a former member of the board of BSC but also as a former managing director of the Steel Company of Wales, Port Talbot, at the heart of the steel industry in South Wales, its investment under private enterprise kept it at least abreast of its competitors.

In the past seven years through constant re-examination and political delay, it has lost its place. It has too much on its late plant and has grave difficulties in achieving either quality or the type of product needed in meat market and production efficiency requirement. It must have a new spirit and go to it to provide it with another half-hatched piece of plant, limited by the foundation of the old mill and obsolete yet another case of too little and too late.

The BSC and the Government should consider either the present scheme going full speed ahead with the installation of a medium width mill and a late replacement of the old and obsolete wide mill or the installation of a single 90 inch wide mill on the proposed new site capable of handling the full product range, using the best furnace and steelmaking complex to the mill, and providing the quality of steel needed for a major section of the steel market.

Yours faithfully,
LAYTON,
6 Old Palace Terrace,
The Green,
Richmond,
Surrey TW9 1LZ.
January 18.

Former German bank chief gives his version of summary dismissal

From Peter Norman
Bonn, Jan 18

Herr Ludwig Poullain, the former chief executive of the Westdeutsche Landesbank (Girozentrale), today broke his silence and presented his version of the events which led first to his resignation on December 23 last year and his summary dismissal by the supervisory council of the bank in the early hours of yesterday.

In a lengthy statement published in full by the business daily paper Handelsblatt, Herr Poullain claimed that his consultancy agreement with the South German financier Herr Josef Schmidt was not the real reason for his departure from the bank back to a row which took place in December between the bank's managing board and the state of North Rhine Westphalia over the conduct of the bank's foreign business.

"The deeper reason," Herr Poullain said, "was that the state government wanted to secure my departure from the bank because it recognized that I would resist in the future its efforts to politicize the bank."

While Herr Poullain's statement will doubtless ensure that

the controversy over the bank and his dismissal stays alive, there were signs today that the coalition government of Social Democrats and Free Democrats in Düsseldorf was recovering from the political crisis.

Professor Friedrich Ralstenberg, who as finance minister in Düsseldorf had been responsible for the state's supervision of the bank resigned last night.

The minister, who was one of the sponsors of this week's move to dismiss Herr Poullain, stepped down after it became apparent that the majority of Free Democrat representatives in the Düsseldorf parliament would not tolerate his continuance in office.

In his version of events, Herr Poullain said he had not the slightest indication in the period up to December 2 that the state government or any of its members knew of the public prosecutor's investigation into the relationship with Herr Schmidt.

He alleged that this became an issue only after December 9 when the bank's managing board forced the state government to withdraw a statement in which it had accused Herr Poullain of having been involved in the bank's foreign business.

This bad spoken of the need for a better supervision of risks

involved in the bank's foreign business activities and had caused alarm among the bank's business partners abroad.

In his statement Herr Poullain disclosed that he had acted as a consultant for Herr Schmidt from 1962. He said the payment of DM1m (now about £200,000) in 1972 was recompense for this lengthy period of consultancy.

He said the government statement alleging that he had concealed the existence of a DM1m bank credit to free Herr Schmidt from investigative custody from a colleague was false.

Herr Poullain also asserted that the consultancy agreement with Herr Schmidt did not constitute an infringement of his contract of appointment at the Westdeutsche Landesbank.

The affair was the main issue of debate in the Düsseldorf parliament today.

Herr Heinrich Köppler, the chairman of the Christian Democrat opposition group, called once again on Herr Heinz Kühn, North Rhine Westphalia's prime minister, to resign, charging that he was primarily responsible for the "agony" of the state cabinet in the affair.

OFT plans no action on supply of lamps

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

Mr Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of Fair Trading, has no plans to refer the supply of electric lamps to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, nor does he believe that there is any undisclosed restrictive agreement between companies in the lighting industry on the durability of discharge lamps—fluorescent tubes and the like.

But if new information emerges during the present investigation by the Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, he will reconsider both points.

This was disclosed yesterday in written evidence to the committee, which was taking evidence from the OFT, the British Standards Institution and the Department of Industry.

The OFT was not technically staffed or equipped to reach conclusions as to which type of lamp was best suited to the needs of the ordinary household, the committee was told.

Although consumer groups had been pressed for long-life bulbs to be more readily available, the office's consumer



Mr Gordon Borrie: receives few complaints about lamps.

affairs division had received few complaints about lamps.

In the public register of agreements which restrict competition among suppliers (maintained under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976) there were 11 agreements relating to electric lamps, the OFT evidence stated.

But none restricted the life of lamps, and "all have been either determined or varied to make them acceptable".

The rising cost of price cuts

From Mrs Janet Upward

Sir, Now that the grocery trade is in the grips of a price war, so vividly described by Patricia Tisdall ("Cut and counter cut in the grocery price struggle", January 11), I should like to send in a report from one part of the battlefield as a cautionary note—at the risk of being accused of being an ungrateful and unreasoning shopper.

Last Friday, in the early afternoon, I happened to visit a small discount store to try to do some of my weekend shopping. Perhaps I was unlucky, but the store was littered with empty parking spaces, cluttered up the aisles, many displays were incomplete or shelves empty and my choice of items extremely restricted.

Even more disconcerting, in my search for toilet rolls, I discovered that the cheapest brand, which was on the other side of the gondola from the main display, when I compared it with another brand (which had the number of sheets per roll marked) appeared smaller.

The three partners said they had carried out studies which showed that the venture was feasible from the economic, land use and planning and the port aspects.

Professor Kenneth Alexander, chairman of the HDB, told a press conference in Inverness the studies had confirmed they were in a position to open up the area for big open and forcefully to have petrochemical development on the north shore of the Cromarty Firth. Work has already begun there on a refinery complex to be supplied from North Sea oil.

About 4,000 acres of the Cromarty area were zoned for industry, and other land could be made available. The petrochemical development could include an investment by all parties of at least £1,000m. It would bring great security to Highland industry and make use of the deep, sheltered waters of the Firth.

The partners argued that the region would not be a disadvantage if the markets of Europe were being served by sea. The most important fact would be the availability of a reliable and competitively priced feedstock for higher standards of insulation in new housing while it is giving away large sums of taxpayers' money to improve the insulation of existing council housing.

In fact, the faulty reasoning goes deeper, I believe, than Mr Sunley outlined.

The whole raison d'être of giving money to improve the insulation of existing council housing is enshrined in the theory that it will save the country large amounts of energy (as well as the tenants' money); any reasoned analysis of this must surely cast serious doubts on it.

To understand this, one must first realize that the energy-saving likely to accrue from increased insulation of existing housing must first depend on the standard of heating (ie, temperatures being maintained) in the various parts of those houses. It is a fact that the major proportion of our existing housing is inadequately heated; it either has no overall heating system or at best, minimum Parker Morris standards, which means no heated bedrooms. It should not take much imagination to realize that the effect, in energy saving terms, of insulating the ceiling of unheated bedrooms is minimal.

Moreover, as conventional wisdom, and advertising, stresses that the most effective way to apply additional insulation is the roof, this is where the bulk of the expenditure is likely to go. And yet the cost,

I did find about three items I thought worth purchasing, but the prospect of waiting in a queue of 500 to check out operating, made me abandon the whole expedition.

The queue certainly shows that such shops attract custom and that shoppers, because of falling or static standards of living, have to accept price as the overriding consideration and can only afford to pay for this level of service.

A certain amount of inconvenience or unattractiveness may be acceptable, but when we begin to see inconvenience as meaning more shopping around because each store has a limited range of goods, or low prices meaning lower standards, then shoppers, even those who can afford little else, will start asking whether the cost of price cuts is becoming too high.

Yours sincerely,
JANET UPWARD,
National Federation of Consumer Groups,
7076 Alcester Road South,
Birmingham B14 7PT,
January 12.

Gazumping and avarice

From Mr R. A. P. Smith

Sir, I wonder when the law of the sale of property will ever again be got into perspective.

Mr Philip Lee (January 11) equates "gazumping" with avarice. The majority of house owners are disposing of the main, often only, asset through the medium of an estate agent whose income is heavily dependent upon a reasonably quick turnover of the estate agent's not an impartial judge of the highest price that property can fetch.

If in testing the market for the highest price I can get for my only asset I belatedly say my way to doing better, I am unashamedly gazing (judging of course, the judiciousness of doing so). I, my wife or children depend upon the outcome and in the process I have found the highest bidder.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. P. SMITH,
16 Oakfields Road,
Kew, Surrey, TW9 1LZ.
January 10.

Consumer spending upturn likely

By Melvyn Westlake

A substantial consumer boom is now widely expected this year by economic forecasters. All of the forecasts in the accompanying table show some upward revision from earlier projections.

Private investment is also thought by some economists as likely to provide a significant contribution to demand. Public sector spending is generally expected to remain depressed.

The growth of imports is unanimously anticipated to be higher than the expansion in the volume of exports. But the current account of the balance of payments is projected to be in comfortable surplus during 1978.

Predictions about this surplus range from £1,200m to £2,100m.

The majority of forecasters expect the growth of national output to be above 3 per cent and inflation below 10 per cent.

Public Sector Borrowing Requirement in the 1978-79 financial year is mostly seen as coming out at between £7,400m and £8,700m.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY									
	Year 1978/Year 1977	Year 1979/Year 1978	Year 1980/Year 1979	Year 1981/Year 1980	Year 1982/Year 1981	Year 1983/Year 1982	Year 1984/Year 1983	Year 1985/Year 1984	Year 1986/Year 1985
	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)	(% change between years unless otherwise stated)
Consumer spending	4.9	3.7	5.3	4.8	5.5	3.5	5.0	3.5	5.0
Private investment inc. housebuilding	7.6	11.3	8.1	9.3	1.8	8.0	6.7	8.0	6.7
Public investment inc. housebuilding	0.4	-4.0	-6.3	0.2	-1.8	-3.0	-2.1	-3.0	-2.1
Public authorities consumption	0.6	0.7	0.7	2.2	1.7	0.5	-1.0	0.5	-1.0
Exports	5.5	4.3	6.5	4.6	4.4	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.8
Imports	7.8	6.5	8.4	-6.1	7.0	5.0	5.5	5.0	5.5
Stockbuilding: (£m) year 1978	116	208	860	355	350	300	42	300	42
Gross domestic product after adjustment to factor cost	3.4	2.2	3.3	3.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	2.5	3.5
Inflation forecast	8.4	11.3	9.7	9.3	9.1	6.5	9.0	6.5	9.0
Balance of payments current account deficit (-) (£m) year 1978	2100	1370	1840	1839	1200	—	2414	—	2414
PSBR (£m—fiscal 1978-79)	8900	8720	8000	5500	7400	7000+	—	—	—
Money Supply ("M3"—fiscal 1978-79)	13	14.3	13.7	10-12	13.0	9-11+	—	—	—

NIESR National Institute of Economic and Social Research.
LBS London Business School.
H.S. Henley Centre.
D.S. DataStream.
P&D Phillips & Drew.
Fourth quarter 1977 to fourth quarter 1978 from "Economic Prospects to End 1978".
Treasury forecasts £750m surplus in first half 1978 and £750m in second half 1978.
Fiscal 1978-79.
Percentage growth between mid-April 1977 and mid-April 1978; target range.

All forecasts are, in constant prices seasonally adjusted and at annual rates. The stockbuilding and balance of payments forecasts in the first half 1978/first half 1977 section are forecasts for the first half of 1978 multiplied by two. Stockbuilding is at 1970 prices.

The private forecasts assume policy changes. For details readers should refer to original sources. Categories in the table are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in result also reflect differences in seasonal constructions and date at which work performed. Substantial changes to both official and private forecasts are likely when National Income Accounts are re-based later this year, from present 1970-base to a 1975-base.

The month in which work was published is given in brackets. Forecasts published by the Treasury twice yearly. NIESR four times a year; LBS three times a year; H, HG and P&D revise their forecasts every month.

Investment plea for Cromarty

By Ronald Faux

An attempt to attract petrochemical industry to the Cromarty Firth was launched yesterday by the Highland Regional Council, the Highlands and Islands Development Board and the Cromarty Firth Port Authority.

Developments proposed would be based on raw feedstock provided by a gas-gathering pipeline from the North Sea oilfields and could lead to one of the largest single industrial investments in Britain.

The three partners said they had carried out studies which showed that the venture was feasible from the economic, land use and planning and the port aspects.

Professor Kenneth Alexander, chairman of the HDB, told a press conference in Inverness the studies had confirmed they were in a position to open up the area for big open and forcefully to have petrochemical development on the north shore of the Cromarty Firth. Work has already begun there on a refinery complex to be supplied from North Sea oil.

About 4,000 acres of the Cromarty area were zoned for industry, and other land could be made available. The petrochemical development could include an investment by all parties of at least £1,000m. It would bring great security to Highland industry and make use of the deep, sheltered waters of the Firth.

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Moreover, as conventional wisdom, and advertising, stresses that the most effective way to apply additional insulation is the roof, this is where the bulk of the expenditure is likely to go. And yet the cost,

A fluorescent bulb in the home?

From Mr Tony Greenfield

Sir, In his article "Twilight of the fluorescent bulb", Kenneth Owen (January 13) quotes a seven-fold increase in the lumens/watt for fluorescent tubes over tungsten filament lamps (bulbs).

Bulbs are so much more practical in houses than tubes and the fittings are universally installed so householders are going to carry on buying them, whatever the disadvantage in luminary efficiency.

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Moreover, as conventional wisdom, and advertising, stresses that the most effective way to apply additional insulation is the roof, this is where the bulk of the expenditure is likely to go. And yet the cost,

The obvious solution is a fluorescent bulb to fit present sockets. Yet Mr Owen doesn't even hint at the possibility. Surely the industry have considered such a solution? I am confident that faced with the problem I could design a fluorescent bulb.

Yours faithfully,
TONY GREENFIELD,
Manager, Process Computing & Statistics,
British Steel Corporation,
Sheffield Laboratories,
Hoyle Street,
Sheffield S3 7PT,
January 13.

Conveyancing

From Mr I. Nagley

Sir, Is it not a little ironic that whilst page four of today's Times (January 10) carries a report of the Law Society's publication of a report on the "Whistleblowing" to allegedly undertaking conveyancing work for gain or reward whilst not a qualified solicitor, page 27 carries an advertisement for a "unadmitted conveyancer" to join a firm of solicitors in Kent?

Yours faithfully,
T. NAGLEY,
Peterborough,
Cambridge,
January 10.

Chemical engineers back single registration board

Registration by a single board for all professional, chartered engineers who would not necessarily have to belong to the present chartered institutions in the Council for Engineering Institutions (CEI) is supported by the Institution of Chemical Engineers in evidence in the Finlinton inquiry into the profession.

But the ICE is cool towards the idea of merging of engineers, a proposition wholly supported so far only by the Institution of Electrical Engineers among the chief bodies.

The ICE recognizes the scope for licensing engineers with work involving possible hazards, but urged caution in application "since the procedure could, in certain circumstances, be very complex indeed."

In brief



Mr John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Plasterboard prices to reflect milages

BPD Industries, whose total monopoly of plasterboard production in the United Kingdom was investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1974, yesterday gave two more undertakings which meet recommendations by the Commission.

Differential prices from March 1 will reflect the milages involved in delivering plasterboard, replacing the present flat rate system. Any customer from then will also have the option of collecting plasterboard at BPD depots at an ex-works price.

3,000 textile jobs lost in seven months

Employment in Britain's cotton and allied textile industry fell by nearly 3,000 between April and November last year, according to the latest monthly

survey published by the Textile Statistics Bureau. Most of the reduction was in the spinning sector, it said.

During November the daily rate of single yarn production was slightly above that for the previous month, but 12.5 per cent below May output.

GEC offshoot wins £2.3m cable order

Telephone Cables, the Essex-based subsidiary of GEC, has won a £2.3m order to supply coaxial-type telecommunications cables for two projects being undertaken in Egypt by Standard Telephone and Cables.

Call to lower taxes for small construction firms

By John Huxley

Changes in the tax system designed to promote the growth and efficiency of small businesses are called for by four construction industry organizations in a joint Budget memorandum to the Chancellor.

The memorandum seeks modifications of the capital gains tax, a reduction in capital transfer tax rates and an assurance from the Government that it does not now intend to introduce a wealth tax.

Mr Healey is also urged to introduce a package of measures which will boost demand in the private sector. These might include improving allowances for capital expenditure on commercial and industrial buildings.

The memorandum is the first to set out the views of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, the Committee of Associations of Specialist Engineering Contractors and the

Export Group for the Construction Industries.

Mr Peter Morley, president of the building trades employers' association, explained in collaborating in this way is to present more effectively the views of the construction industry, in conjunction with work in the United Kingdom, the European Community and overseas.

Small businesses, the memorandum says, provide the indispensable backbone of the construction industry. Most recent figures show that of about 88,000 companies in the industry, about 99 per cent have fewer than 50 employees while more than 90 per cent have fewer than 25.

Among fiscal measures proposed to help these businesses, the memorandum suggests that the Government should grant all genuinely new businesses a tax holiday for the first five years of trading, subject to a condition that any profits earned are ploughed back.

Slight fall in world steel production

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

World steel production last year amounted to 673.1 million tonnes, a fall of 0.5 per cent on the previous year's level, according to figures published yesterday by the International Iron and Steel Institute in Brussels.

Production was up by 4.2 per cent on the depressed levels of 1975 but 5 per cent below the record production levels of 1974.

The Institute said output in the west last year fell by 2.8 per cent, although production in the United States was down by nearly 3 per cent.

European steelmakers produced 126 million tonnes last

year, a drop of 6.1 per cent in the 1976 levels, with West Germany the largest single steel producer in the Community with an output of 39 million tonnes.

Comecon countries, however, increased their steel production with output rising by 3.3 per cent to 205.3 million tonnes, while the organization estimated that Chinese and North Korean output rose by 10.6 per cent.

Japan's output down: Crude steel production in Japan in 1977 totalled 12,401 million tonnes, down 4.7 per cent from 107,399 million tonnes in 1976. The output of crude steel in the three months ended Decem-

ber was 24,963 million tons, compared with 25,570 million tons in the previous three months period.

In the current January-March period production is expected to total about 23.6 million tons, the official said.

Ordinary steel inventories at makers and wholesalers as of the end of December totalled about 7.5 million tons, compared with about 8.12 million tons as of the end of September.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) wants to reduce the inventories to about 6.8 million tons by the end of March this year, the officials added.—AP-Dow Jones.

حکومت اسلامی

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Investment trusts as the dust settles

Early next week investors in Edinburgh and Dundee Investment Company will be receiving cheques worth £75m, representing the payout under the bid from British Rail Pension Funds, and will be considering what to do with their cash. Just before Christmas the successful outcome of this bid, together with that for the £100m British Investment Trust, had led to considerable optimism in the investment trust sector. It was felt that, while some of the proceeds would flow out of the sector, much would be channelled back—if only on the view that more bids would follow—and that discounts on asset values would therefore narrow. By the new year, indeed, discounts were down to an average 20 per cent from 27 per cent at the beginning of December and 40 per cent a year earlier.

Since then, however, the optimism has been quietly evaporated. Investors in BIT were paid off early this month and it now seems that relatively little has flowed back into other trusts. On the contrary there has been more selling and jobbers are presently holding a surplus of stock. Against a 2 per cent fall in the stock market as a whole, the investment trusts are down by 7 per cent, and the average discount has widened to 23 per cent. There is now little confidence that much of the Edinburgh and Dundee proceeds—especially the 40-50 per cent held in the institutions—will go back into the equity and bond sectors.

The short explanation for this extraordinary about-turn in sentiment is the collapse of both Wall Street and the dollar premium. The premium alone has been calculated to be worth 10 per cent of the average trusts' assets, but in fact the shares of those trusts with no overseas exposure have been almost as hard hit as those with big foreign investments. The cloud is thus hanging over the sector as a whole, and it is questionable whether prices can recover much until Wall Street picks up. Meanwhile, although bid rumours still abound, some believe it might be as much as £1,000m to be taken out of the £6,000m trust sector to correct the fundamental oversupply of stock. If so, a lot more bids are needed yet.

The Eurobond market has got off to a dismal start this year with secondary market prices sliding fast as a result of rising interest rates and a weak dollar. But the market has one increasingly important prop: the new issue market. In the form of a rapid growth in interest and principal repayments from past issues, it seems to be the only source of funds that a significant proportion of these trusts are ploughed back, there should be sufficient resources available to prevent a total drying up of the new issue market, and a precipitate collapse of prices that some have feared.

A year ago, Orion Bank forecast that interest and principal repayments in 1978 would total almost £6,700m, but after last year's bumper new issue volume of £1,500m, the new issue market is now projecting the return of "old money" into the market of £3,200m. For the market perspective, that is almost equal to the £3,600m of new issues in 1975, a record performance of the time. In 1979, Orion estimates, refloows will rise to £9,300m, climbing further to £13,700m in 1980. The point about this is that it will likely pay issuing houses to study the timing of interest and principal repayments when they consider the appropriate moment to launch issues into a market which might otherwise be too receptive to a heavy new issue calendar.

Madame Tussaud's

While Lord Grade

away... Lord Grade safely ensconced in the United States yesterday, S. Pearson's second bid in the battle for Madame Tussaud's was timed. It looks like a knock-out blow. Pearson has raised its cash terms by no less than 44 per cent to 65p a share which is 10p above its paper offer which has the advantage of being in non-voters. Moreover, Pearson will allow Tussaud's shareholders to keep the 1977 final dividend 3.07p a share gross, and for those shareholders who see a capital tax snag in a cash offer (which must

be most of them in this case) there is an alternative of 65p worth of Pearson 10 1/2 per cent partly convertible stock.

ATV will consider this and the fact that the Tussaud's board is backing Pearson (barring little option out to give up its ideas of independence in the face of these sort of terms) tomorrow, but my guess is that Lord Grade will throw in the towel.

Pearson is offering Tussaud's shareholders an exit at nearly 18 times likely 1977 earnings and approaching 14 times on the 1978 forecast. Given that Pearson was originally talking about a p/e ratio of around 9 one can see how far this situation has progressed since November when Tussaud's sparked the whole thing off by suggesting to Pearsons that it would like to buy Chessington Zoo.

So now, of course it is simply a question of price and even at this level Pearson does not feel secure. It was in the market yesterday buying 175,000 Tussaud's shares at 65p, and like everyone else involved in this bid wondering about the reported mystery buyer of some 200,000 Tussaud's shares on Monday at around 64p.

It was not apparently ATV, but others, Trust House Forte for one, have been mentioned as possible counter bidders. One thing is sure, if there is someone in the woodwork the Pearson bid will quickly bring them out. If not, Tussaud's shareholders can still look back on one of the best speculative profits seen in the market for some time: shortly before the bid the shares stood at around 20-25p while the April 5, 1965 "Doomsday" price for capital gains tax is 5p.

Allied Retailers

Now seeing real gains

Having come through the recession in remarkably fine shape, Allied Retailers seems well-placed to benefit from the subsequent upswing.

Any doubts about the timing of this upturn are not countenanced by Allied's chairman, Mr Harold Plotnik, who says: "We are now seeing real volume growth for the first time in more than three years."

Allied's 34 per cent interim pre-tax improvement to £1.6m has been flattered by a substantial drop in transfers of hire purchase profits to the unrealized reserve and real profits growth comes out nearer



Mr Harold Plotnik, chairman of Allied Retailers.

5 per cent. Meanwhile, a turnover improvement of more than a fifth masks a store-by-store volume drop.

But the shares up 7p to 185p yesterday having come up 50 per cent since the dividend-boosting rights issue in June are looking to Allied's promise of a "dramatic improvement" in the next full year.

By the end of this year the group will have increased its store units by around 20 to almost 150, while the four new United Kingdom superstores incorporating both the Allied Carpets and Williams furniture operations have yet to start making a real contribution.

With sales growth already rising in line with the increase in new mortgages full-year profits could climb to over £4.5m from last year's £3.7m.

Despite their recent strength the shares are selling on a prospective p/e ratio of around 7 1/2 while the yield is 6 1/2 per cent. Here they are still not reflecting the possibility of a surge to perhaps £7m in profits next year. So the shares should figure among the strongest performers in 1978.

Economic notebook

Not much of a fig leaf

For years economic policy-making in Britain has been carried out under the shadow of actual or incipient balance of payments crises. North Sea oil has changed all that. Or has it?

It is certainly true (notwithstanding the blip back into the red on the trade account last month) that we can look forward confidently to a payments surplus this year, with trade and current accounts both fairly firmly in the black. However, the all too familiar worries about the effects of economic expansion on the balance of payments are back in circulation in Whitehall, and concern about the possible erosion of the payments surplus is already a constraint on plans for stimulating the economy.

It is by no means the only one. Despite large-scale unemployment and under-utilization of capacity there are still fears that if the Government tries to give a big push to the economy it will end up by giving a big boost to inflation. Combined with a grip on the money supply, and an unwillingness to send interest rates soaring as a result, this limits the room for expansion.

But much of the gloom about the long-term prospects for growth and employment arises from that over Britain's trade performance. A glance at the Treasury forecasts for the economy sheds some light on this.

The Chancellor's October tax cuts were estimated to add another 1 per cent to overall growth in the economy this year. With an extra 1 per cent growth, the £400m to £500m was topped off the forecast surplus on the current account for 1978, from £2,400m or so to the present estimate of £1,500m.

Admittedly, most other forecasts of the balance of payments for this year are more optimistic than the Treasury; but only slightly so. There are several indications from the latest trade figures that the official caution is justified.

First, after growing strongly since 1977, export volumes dropped by 31 per cent in the final three months of last year from their level in the third quarter. This still left them appreciably higher than a year earlier and, as the chart shows, the performance over 1977 as a whole was impressive.

However, there must be considerable doubt over the ability of British exporters to increase their share of world trade in 1978 in the way that they did last year, especially since the exchange rate is now hurting rather than helping them.

Projections of world trade growth this year vary from as little as 4 per cent to as much as 8-10 per cent. Most forecasts are nearer the bottom end of the range.

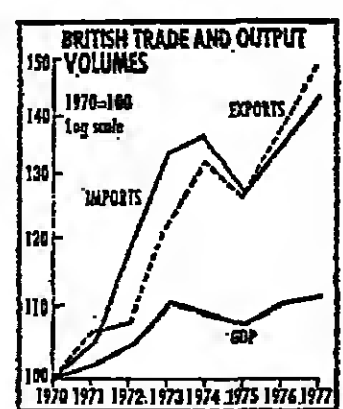
The Treasury estimate in October that the overseas markets of United Kingdom manufacturers would grow by 9 per cent. This optimistically high forecast was balanced to some extent by the assumption that British manufacturers would lose market shares in 1978.

Optimistically high forecast

The Treasury thus forecast overall growth in British exports of goods and services (including tourism) of 6 per cent this year. If world trade expands by less than the hoped for 9 per cent, exports will be correspondingly lower.

Secondly, despite the virtual stagnation of British output last year and an expected decline in the volume of consumer spending from its 1976 level imports rose by 6 per cent in volume.

Even this figure does not tell the worst. For the extra imports were not, on the whole, going to equip British industry



for a subsequent expansion in output, but war consumer goods bought in preference to British-made manufactures: imports of finished goods rose by 13.8 per cent during the year, while those of industrial materials were up by only 5.5 per cent.

As recovery gets under way this year, more imports will be sucked in. The Treasury forecast of an 11 per cent rise in volumes does not look too pessimistic.

A rising proportion of trade to output has been a feature of all industrialized economies. But the British propensity to spend extra incomes on imported rather than domestically produced goods far outweighs the propensity of foreigners to buy British. While there is North Sea oil to pay the difference, this does not lead straight to payments problems.

Dwarfed by the bill for imports

It leads there more quickly than one might imagine, however. The North Sea oil benefit to the balance of payments is dwarfed by Britain's total bill for imports. It has contributed to the dramatic turnaround from a current account deficit of £1,227m in 1976 to last year's small surplus and will continue to grow this year and probably next, although by a much smaller amount. Thereafter the oil benefit ceases.

The Bank of England estimated in its last Quarterly Bulletin that the current balance on oil (which includes the effect of profits due abroad on foreign investment in the North Sea, as well as the purely trade effects) improved from a deficit of £4,000m in 1976 to one of £3,500m last year and that this will shrink again in 1978. But whereas there was marked improvement in the "non-oil" balance last year, there is little chance of a repeat performance this year.

Britain is coming out of recession and the rest of the world is growing only slowly. It may seem foolish to worry about the disappearing surplus at the same time as there is concern over the effects on Britain's competitive position of the rising exchange rate, which comes with the surplus. Some would argue that the Government should not aim at current surplus.

From an international point of view there is no more justification for Britain to be in surplus than for Germany or Japan. This ignores, though, the overall net debts which Britain has built up in times of deficit.

From a domestic point of view why not use the North Sea to finance as much growth and employment as possible while it lasts? However, the fundamental problem is not whether or not to use North Sea oil to run a current surplus for a few years, but the fact that, even with the oil, Britain's payments position is extremely fragile. The only long-term way to finance growth and employment is by raising the level of exports in line with Britain's huge import appetite, or cutting that appetite.

Caroline Atkinson

Can Mr Edwardes have the best of both worlds at Leyland Cars?

The problem facing Mr Michael Edwardes, British Leyland's new chairman, in yet another attempt to rejuvenate his near moribund Leyland Cars subsidiary is depressingly simple. It is producing too few cars with too many employees, while the cars being produced are in the main outdated and unattractive.

The solution he favours and is now trying to sell to less than sympathetic union leaders and shop stewards is to split Leyland Cars into three independently run profit centres—Austin Morris (volume cars), Jaguar, Rover, Triumph (executive and specialist cars) and Rover (including foundries and SU-Burec).

A similar segmented break-up was scrapped in the now discredited reorganization which followed the Ryder Report. At that time it was argued that by international standards Leyland Cars was already too small to be further handicapped by inter-company rivalry. The sooner it got rid of long-standing petty jealousies between "breast and buttock" boys at Austin Morris and the "dive" at Jaguar, Rover and Triumph, the better for all concerned.

With installed capacity for about one million cars a year a fully integrated Leyland Cars would be well-placed to take advantage of the economies of volume production, central purchasing and engineering. In the eyes of many industry observers that formula still has much to commend it. It may well be that when Mr Edwardes unveils his final plan, and they still have to run the gauntlet of a union-dominated Government—it will be seen that he is trying to get the best of both worlds. In other words, he may retain a number of central services interposed between his tiny corporate headquarters in London and the three car companies.

The success or failure of any car maker rests squarely on his engineering capability—including research and development—which produces a steady stream of new cars. Leyland has recognized this and urged the construction of a central engineering centre complete with test track.

Two years ago Mr Spencer King, the brilliant Rover/Triumph engineer, was given the daunting task of leading a central engineering team to staff spread over 12 different locations. It is generally acknowledged that given the impossible constraints of inadequate dispersed facilities, the centrally planned new model policies, he has done a good job.

But this will not come to fruition until the planned engineering complex is built at Solihull. It would be the height of folly to expect Leyland Cars of a facility long envied by all its major competitors.

Another question to be answered is the future of the present central sales and marketing headquarters based in Reading, Wiltshire. Under British Leyland's former public relations chief, Mr Keith Hopkins, it has been pushing through a much needed rationalization of the distributor-dealer network. A key element in the restructuring of outlets handling a wider range of cars.

The aim is to give each outlet a bigger and more clearly defined selling territory and, via the wider range, bigger annual throughput. Inevitably, the network is being reduced, and the number of outlets to minimum requirements have had to go. Some saw the writing on the wall and left before they "got the boot".

More will certainly follow as the effects of Leyland's disastrous loss of a 35 per cent share of the home market to 22 per cent are reflected in their profitability.

But the concept of Leyland outlets, as opposed to separate and often duplicated Austin or Triumph or Jaguar showrooms, is beyond argument. Overhead are spread and unit throughput increased.

It seems inconceivable that Mr Edwardes will want to throw away all these gains. A solution which would find a lot of support both within the company and with its dealers would be another compromise. The three car companies would indeed be made responsible for their own sales and marketing. This would stop much of the present bickering between the manufacturing side and Redditch. They are always blaming each other when things go wrong.

It will also give manufacturing a closer involvement with the market place. Redditch as an all-embracing central sales

solvent to stop the present outflow of cash. The long climb back to acceptable profits is a secondary target.

His immediate task is to reduce manning. With a 130,000 strong payroll he is geared to take 35 per cent of the British market, but is in fact struggling to climb from 22 per cent to the 25 per share which many believe to be the most he can hope for in the next two years.

His answer seems to be a 12,000 cut this year—about 10 per cent—in his manpower. Natural wastage and voluntary redundancy could easily take care of this. Further cuts in the next two years would be dependent on the recovery of market share.

Shrewd observers, including some of his competitors, insist that this short-term piecemeal approach is again ducking the old issue of a grossly overmanned Leyland Cars. They believe that as many as 40,000 jobs should go now.

Mr Derek Whitaker, who quits as Cars managing director on January 31, is known to have told shop steward members of the Joint Management Council—Leyland's top participation body—that present output levels justify only a 90,000 payroll.

As always when faced with redundancies, the unions are suggesting that the problem can be overcome with increased output. They are ready to pledge their members to achieve this. But they have given similar promises in the past and never kept them. There is no reason to believe they will be any more successful this time.

Much has been made of the possibility of plant closures. The TRF plant at Speke, Liverpool, which has been closed for the past 11 weeks because of management moves to increase productivity, is said to be at the top of the list.

There is no doubt that such a salutary step is seen by many as the overdue answer to shop stewards who have grown accustomed to abusive crises of "wolf" by successive managements. In practice, however, there are few who believe that Mr Edwardes can, or wishes to, succeed in such a dangerous confrontation when he is already embattled on other fronts.

At the heart of the matter is Leyland's chaotic war structure, differing substantially from plan to plan. The October halloo of the workforce in favour of annual central bargaining was the biggest breakthrough since British Leyland was created in 1963.

Much of the credit must go to Mr Geoffrey Whalen, the Cars head of industrial relations, who worked 18 hours a day to bring rival unions around the same negotiating table.

After blood has been sweated to reach agreement in principle to central bargaining, will it now be thrown away by dismemberment of Leyland Cars? Sources close to Mr Edwardes say no, that central bargaining will be retained whatever happens to Leyland Cars. In this, he is supported by union leaders who a few short months ago were arguing vehemently against once-a-year negotiations for all.

Their opposition was apparently to give lip service to the misunderstood views of their shopfloor membership. But now that central bargaining is within reach they can see the advantages to be gained in weakening the plant level power base of militant shop stewards.

LOOKERS LIMITED

Preliminary results for the year ended 30th September, 1977 (unaudited).

	Year to 30.9.77	Year to 30.9.76
Turnover	£43,280,148	£31,815,468
Trading Profit	1,435,594	787,098
Exceptional item		375,000
Group profit before taxation	1,435,594	1,162,098
Taxation	(22,963)	363,200
Group profit after taxation	1,458,557	825,898
Extraordinary items	18,753	(502)
Profit after extraordinary items being the profit for the year attributable to shareholders	£1,477,310	£825,396
Dividends per 25p share:		
Interim of 0.9075p paid 30th September, 1977 (1976-0.825p)	67,280	53,880
Final of 1.5497p payable 28th April, 1978 (1976-1.375p)	114,891	89,800
Supplementary of 7.0021p paid 30th September 1977 in respect of previous year	1,572	—
Excess final dividend for 1976 paid during year due to increase in share capital on acquisition of "Platts"	12,139	—
Less: Amounts waived	195,882	143,681
	£195,882	£143,681
Retained Profit	£1,281,428	£681,715
Earnings per share	30.3p	12.6p

Notes:
1. The results for the year to 30th September, 1977 include the profits of the newly acquired subsidiaries "Platts" from 1st January, 1977.
2. The exceptional item in the previous year was the write-back of an estimated provision which was considered inappropriate. The original provision was made in 1975 for profits earned in excess of the levels permitted by the Counter Inflation Act 1973. The taxation charge for 1976 includes £198,000 relating to this exceptional item.
3. The credit for taxation has arisen as stock appreciation relief and capital allowances exceed the profit for the year with the effect that there are excess allowances which have been relieved against profits of the previous year. It is now Group policy to provide for Deferred Taxation only to the extent that it is considered a liability will arise in the foreseeable future. The implementation of this policy during the year has given rise to a transfer from Deferred Tax to Revenue Reserves amounting to £421,387. This amount is not included in the results above but will be shown in the published accounts as a prior year adjustment.
Management accounts for the present financial year show that the Group is continuing to trade satisfactorily.

Business Diary: Parker is nationalized • Bovis to go skateboarding

Parker was down Mexico yesterday when Eric Levey, the Secretary of State for Industry, announced that the terms had agreed to be a full-time member of the board of British Shipbuilders.

Mr Parker is probably the youngest full-time member of a nationalized industry. He has been running him into the job since last summer when he joined British Shipbuilders (although not on board) on secondment from the Wearside Shipbuilders where he was acting director.

Mr Parker was formerly owned by the Overseas Freighters among the most vocal of nationalization. Mr Kimber, the A & P man, faced a tough choice in Michael Casey, the former servant who is now chief of British Shipbuilders, said he wanted Parker as head of BS's marketing.

Mr Parker was an obvious choice for A & P's 14 ship has been a world seller. After much behind-the-scenes juggling a compromise was agreed whereby the British Shipbuilders part to begin with.

In that controversial £115m deal with the Poles and as the state organization's full-time member for shipbuilding he will be responsible for the development of overall policy for the industry and for its operating and marketing activities.

Parker will be paid between £13,500 and £19,000 and expects to spend much of his time commuting between London and the organization's new offices at Newcastle upon Tyne—where he is not globe trotting, that is.

The British Shipbuilders board now has 12 full and part-time members, but the organization still has to find somebody to take on perhaps the grimmest job of the lot—board member for personnel.

Civil engineers have been having a rough time recently because town hall and government work has dropped off and Bovis has been taking a close look at the opportunities offered by the leisure market.

The number of inquiries from local authorities and individuals confirmed Bovis' view that skateboarding will be a long way to go—and one where its experience in laying concrete and in landscaping could be used.

Two of the less likely spectators at the world skateboarding championships in San Diego last month were Pat Hall, chief executive of Bovis Civil Engineering, and his assistant, Robin Bradbury.

Bovis, part of the P & O group, is to cooperate with Skate City, which says it opened Britain's first purpose-built skate park, near London Bridge. The idea is to build and/or operate skate parks and to offer a skateboarding consultancy.

Hall and Bradbury, as directors of the new joint company, Skate City Bovis, decided to do some on-the-spot research on the United States West Coast, where it all began.

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The number of inquiries from local authorities and individuals confirmed Bovis' view that skateboarding will be a long way to go—and one where its experience in laying concrete and in landscaping could be used.

Bradbury is convinced that skateboarding will not be another overgrown crane, although he acknowledges that "people will quickly rise of a simple park". That is why Bovis

is now experimenting with different surfaces and designs, incorporating bowls, slopes and reservoirs at its premises at Westbury, Wiltshire.

Asked if he and Hall had become any good at skateboarding since they started pouring money into its Bradbury at first, replied "no comment" but then added: "In a tall man and I've got further to fall than some."

Darcy McKenough, the treasurer of Ontario, Canada's most populous and industrial province, was at his most statesmanlike in a speech he gave in the City yesterday about the impending referendum on whether Quebec should declare

UDI, as René Levesque's ruling Parti Quebecois would like. But then McKenough can afford to be.

He is a confirmed federalist, but said he now welcomed the referendum as a chance to flush out the secession issue.

He added: "The policy of the Government of Ontario is clear: we do not and will not restrict movement of capital and investment between provinces."

All this may not be unconnected with the fact that firms with headquarters in Montreal, Quebec's capital, are already voting with their feet ahead of the referendum and heading for new offices in Toronto.

British Airways, for instance, is already moving, and a big Montreal employer, Sun Life, is only being held back by pressure from Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian premier.

Losses running in to hundreds of millions may concern the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries at the moment, but another Commons committee showed yesterday that it was not having any money going up in smoke without the Government's geriatric cut.

Robert Sheldon, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, successfully put to 12 members of the first Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments a Treasury order that will raise

an estimated £15,000 by redefining cigars and cigarettes in such a way that the 1977 financial year that the cigarillo, occupying the middle ground, will generally be considered as a cigarette—and thus pay a slightly higher duty.

As Sheldon put the total tobacco duty expected this year at £2,150m, the 15-minute committee meeting on cigarette duty was a fairly straightforward affair. The committee was asked to approve a Treasury order that will raise



Ontario's Darcy McKenough in London yesterday: a referendum for me.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARK ET REPORTS

Stock markets

Spotlight falls on takeover stocks

Though a little below their best on disappointing industrial production and average earnings figures, equities had their best day to date for a fortnight as investors took advantage of the 10-point fall on the FT Index over the first two days of the week.

Much of the interest centred on takeover stocks, both actual and potential, while much of the mainstream of business comprised "bear" closing and some cheap buying. After the industrial market's depressing performance so far this year, dealers were not surprised by this limited wave of interest.

Unless this week's money supply figures turn out to be much worse than expected, most are looking for further gains.

One or two brokers are arguing that the rot in EMI has gone far enough. Sir John Reed, chairman, knocked the shares 30p to 188p on December 6 with an annual meeting of shareholders, but yesterday they recovered 3p to 181p. Immediate reaction to Sir John's words among analysts was to downgrade likely profits this year (to June) to £45m or so from 1976-77's £64.7m. It now seems that £50m or more is possible. Interim figures come in March.

over the next day or two. The FT Index quickly went ahead on this small buying and by midday was 5.2 better. It held its ground until 3 pm when it stood 5.8 ahead and closed at 476.3.

Following a nervous start, general optimism over the money supply enabled gilt-edged securities to hold on to subsequent gains with the influence of President Carter's address to the American nation another factor in this firmness.

The undoubted feature of the day's trading was the number of bid and speculative stocks in demand.

The board of Raglan Property says it knows of no reason for the recent increase in the group's share price which has risen 1p to 61p this week. Discussions continue on the

reconstruction mentioned in the 1976 report.

News of higher terms from S. Pearson lifted Madame Tussaud's 6p to 65p and sparked off speculation that ATV might mount another counter. The latter's "A" shares rose 3p to 105p.

Turner Manufacturing soared 14p to 113p on talk that the United States Dana Corporation, now quoted in London, might use its stake to mount a full-scale takeover. News of an approach led to the suspension of Thos Marshall (Laxey) with the ordinary at 38p and the "A" at 35p, while a share back from suspension was F. W. Evans which immediately went to 58p, a rise of 30p on the suspension price. The group has terms from McKeechie Brothers.

Blakeys (Castings) gained 2p to 45p on the rejection of the Centreway terms, hopes of further move lifted London Pavilion another 10p to 475p with Caledonian Associated Cinemas 20p to the good at 335p in sympathy. Hopes of a counter to the move from Comet Radio boosted Henry Wigfall another 10p to 254p, revived takeover talk was good for a rise of 3p to 19p in Liden, and the Wood Hall Trust stake brought more speculative demand to Pauls & Whites which closed 12p to the good

at 135p. Others speculatively wanted included G. Bassett, up 10p to 148p, Bluebird Confectionery, better by 16p to 163p and long-time favourites Avon and Rubbee which ended 7p ahead at 193p and J. Bibby which gained 6p to 222p.

One of the day's active stocks Davenports' Brewery was lifted a further 2p to 82p. Persistent buying, particularly from the Midlands, has fuelled speculation that a bid might come forward in February offering around £1 a share.

Continuing compensation hopes lifted both Vosper 7p to

at 91p. Samuel Properties is at a 27 per cent discount to 58p, a rise of 30p on the suspension price. The group has terms from McKeechie Brothers. Blakeys (Castings) gained 2p to 45p on the rejection of the Centreway terms, hopes of further move lifted London Pavilion another 10p to 475p with Caledonian Associated Cinemas 20p to the good at 335p in sympathy. Hopes of a counter to the move from Comet Radio boosted Henry Wigfall another 10p to 254p, revived takeover talk was good for a rise of 3p to 19p in Liden, and the Wood Hall Trust stake brought more speculative demand to Pauls & Whites which closed 12p to the good

167p and Vickers 6p to 195p. The latter's 70 per cent owned Canadian subsidiary plans to

pay an extra dividend this year and its shares returned to the Montreal and Toronto Stock Exchanges yesterday after suspension.

In shipyards there was a lively two-way trade in European Ferries with the shares closing 2p better at 115p. Favourable comment from a provincial broker enabled C. H. Bailey to stay firm at a shade over 9.

Old bid stories are once again starting to come true, if one waits long enough. The hopeful now talking about Samuel Osborn wherein Johnson & Firth Brown have 30 per cent. The gossip is that this stake is on the move, naturally to a bidder. The name of Laird Group is suggested. Early last year conversations with Weir Group broke down. Yesterday Osborn hardened 1p to 74p, and Johnson 1p to 61p.

Equity turnover on January 17 was £68.50m (13.225 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Courtall, ICI, Ladbroke, Racal, BP, Shell, BAT Ind and Dtd, Becham, Madame Tussaud, Reed International, Thorn, Davenport Brewery, Pauls & Whites, Turner Manufacturing and Vosper.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	per share	per share	date	total	total
Int of Fin	(—)	0.30(0.10)	6.70(5.32)	Nil(Nil)	6/4	Nil(Nil)
Albion (F)	(—)	0.86(0.74)	8.50(7.82)	2.12(1.92)	6/4	(4.25)
W. Alexander (I)	13.14(10.40)	1.60(1.20)	8.50(7.82)	2.12(1.92)	7/4	(1.78)
Allied Refr (I)	30.91(25.1)	1.60(1.20)	8.50(7.82)	2.12(1.92)	2/5	6.32(5.75)
Anglia Tele (F)	19.70(11.14)	0.22(0.22)	1.60(1.20)	1.32(1.32)	6/4	1.45(—)
Bank Leumi (F)	(—)	0.22(0.22)	1.60(1.20)	1.32(1.32)	1/5	3.19(2.29)
Country Prop (F)	9.09(6.8)	0.24(0.05)	3.5(0.9)	1.32(—)	6/3	(1.7)
Couch Grp (I)	4.71(5.07)	0.25(0.27)	0.80(0.89)	0.80(0.89)	6/4	6.59(5.8)
Thos French (I)	13.50(9.81)	1.27(1.00)	16.7(13.8)	0.84(1.25)	31/3	(3.1)
Group Inv (I)	(—)	(—)	0.72(0.65)	0.72(0.65)	28/4	2.42(2.1)
Henlys (F)	160.2(129.3)	4.32(1.50)	26.7(13.5)	4.59(4.15)	3/4	(8.0)
Heron Motor (I)	62.98(51.10)	1.43(0.81)	5.02(2.78)	1.70(1.55)	23/3	2.5(1.95)
Lookers (F)	43.20(31.1)	1.43(1.16)	20.2(12.6)	1.54(1.37)	31/3	5.54(4.94)
Ment & Sims (I)	52.12(48.25)	7.08(7.11)	(—)	3.5(3.0)	—	(Nil)
Rakosen Grp (P)	1.01(0.97)	0.02(0.17)	(—)	1.7(1.35)	23/3	2.5(1.95)
Scot Am Inv (P)	(—)	1.48(1.11)	0.90(0.15)	0.90(0.15)	9/3	5.54(4.94)
Stock Cont (I)	(—)	2.48(2.15)	(—)	0.90(0.15)	—	(Nil)
US & Gen Tel (F)	(—)	0.54(0.85)	6.85(6.03)	4.34(3.51)	—	(Nil)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A Forecast. H for 15 months. C Loss.

Erratic delivery brings drop at Buffels

By Desmond Quigley
Erratic delivery of uranium at Buffelsfontein, part of the General Mining Group, led to a drop in pre-tax profits to £11.02m in the December quarter from £12.2m in the previous quarter.

Income from uranium production amounted to only R482,000 compared with R495m in the September quarter. The amount of uranium oxide produced at the mine fell from 173,300 to 151,300 kilograms.

Despite the drop in gold production, the mine had a gold working profit of R8,76m compared with R6,27m, having received a higher gold price—average of US\$189.77 compared with \$139.27 an ounce.

Uranium sales at West Rand Consolidated were low—producing R3,53m in net revenue compared with R5.2m in the September quarter, with the result that the group made a loss during the quarter.

In the Union Corporation group, St Helena reported both a lower milling rate and yield. However, most of the other mines in the group managed to maintain both the milling rate and yield.

Winkelhaak produced an extra eight kilograms of gold, but pre-tax profits rose to R12.1m from R8.95m in the September quarter.

There was a wide spread in the average gold price received by the various mines—ranging from \$169.77 at Buffelsfontein to \$176.6m at West Rand Consolidated.

Union Corporation
Gold working profits (Rm)
Dec qtr Sept qtr
Winkelhaak 11.6 8.47
Braam 3.2 2.07
Kintross 7.43 5.34
Grootevlei 3.18 1.98
Maricvale 1.83 0.925
St Helena 11.8 8.87
Leslie 0.821 0.35
Buffels General Mining 6.27
Safefoot 2.69 1.45*
S. Roope 0.162* 0.168*
West Rand (a) 1.31* 0.473
* Loss; (a) = loc uranium

Stock Conversion upgrades full-time forecast to £4.5m

By Ray Maughan

Stock Conversion & Investment Trust has upgraded its forecast of annual net pre-tax revenue from "not less" than £4.17m to over £4.5m.

Net revenue in the six months to end-September last climbed from £2.15m to £2.48m while minorities took £578,000 against £442,000. The share of net revenue less deficit of associated companies climbed from £407,000 to £576,000.

At the end of December, SCIT acquired for cash the 50 per cent of the share capital and the 50 per cent of the outstanding loans held by an external interest in Far Investment which owns freehold premises

at Old Bailey, London, EC4. Far Investment is now a wholly-owned subsidiary.

The winding down of capital commitments, down from £4m to around £2m at the last balance sheet, has bolstered cash flow and allowed reversal of income increases to come through to profits.

The shares climbed 2p to 260p, just off the 12-month high. At this level, SCIT is rated somewhat above fully diluted net assets of 236p as shown in the last balance sheet. Market estimates of current asset backing range up to around 340p per share where the discount would be less than 18 per cent.

SCIT has ceased to be a major developer and its investment properties—about 80 per cent of the portfolio. In line with the board's policy of revaluing at not more than five year intervals, these were revalued in 1977 to show a surplus of £8.8m.

The interim dividend is raised from 1.25p to 1.5p per share and, in the event of restrictions still being in force when the final dividend is due next September, the board propose to pay a further 1.525p gross a share. This would raise the total from 2.75p to 3.025p per share. The yield is thus 1.16 per cent against the sector average of 2.8 per cent.

Akroyd goes into gold

London's advantages as centre

Could 1978 be the year the gold share comes into its own on the Stock Exchange?

With a second jobber, Akroyd & Smithers, preparing to start trading in the major stocks and considerable speculative opportunity available, the City is hoping to see London regain its position as the premier market for these shares.

But the situation is not ideal to the boom years of the early 1970s when there were three jobbing firms to make a market and plenty of investors prepared to try their lucks.

The advent of the 25 per cent surrender rule on dollar premium stocks meant that much of the business was lost to overseas markets. New York, Johannesburg and some of the European capitals, such as Paris, stepped in to snare the excess capacity and will be loath to give up this lucrative trade.

Moreover, although gold shares have been a traditional favourite of the big pension funds and institutions, the sensitive political situation in South Africa has cut back their interest in this sector.

More than one institutional fund manager admit to keeping out of these stocks completely and investing in the business through the mining finance houses.

Nor will gold shares make a good home for the savings of the small shareholder. The price nuances of the international

markets allied to currency movements make it the prerogative of the professional investor.

So where will the upturn come from? According to Mr Michael Sargent, a director of Akroyd & Smithers, the increased competition ought to generate more business. The stockbrokers certainly want more competition and with two of us to job in gold shares there should be more activity and less of a spread in the price," he said.

Akroyd is not without expertise in this sector. Stocken & Lazarus, which was merged into the group at the end of 1976, formerly traded the stocks. It stopped dealing in South African gold mines about 18 months ago under the penal impact of the investment currency premium.

However, Akroyd chairman Mr David LeRoy-Lewis is confident that it will be a profitable expansion for the group. "Controlled but worthwhile" was how he described his firm's entry into this market and Smith Brothers, the sole London jobber in the sector at present, has made a profit from this side throughout the depressed surrender rule period.

However, there is further competition in London from the American stockbrokers, many of whom are now making a market in gold shares in London. Through their parent offices these brokers can follow deals in the New York and

Tokyo markets throughout the international time zone.

But London does have its advantages for the investor. In Britain it is possible to deal in an account and settlement does not take place for a further 10 days. The jobbing firms can also gain through dealing net with their agents. Both Akroyd and Smith have links-up with the major markets.

Gold shares are very much a sector for the speculator. With the price of bullion already fluctuating around the \$170-\$180 level many pundits expect that it will push through the magical \$200 barrier by Easter, and it could go even higher.

The current weakness of the dollar and the lack-lustre performance of Wall Street are likely to give the sector an added impetus from Americans unsure where else to invest.

Despite the abolition of the 25 per cent surrender rule at the beginning of this year there has been little noticeable increase in the United Kingdom trade, according to Smith Brothers. But they do expect a gradual upturn on the back of a more favourable background in South Africa.

However, optimism of the jobbers is more than matched by circles in the City expecting that the equity market in general will have a good run in to the Budget. All that glitters this year may not necessarily be gold shares.

Alison Mitchell

What does Grindlays bank on?

The Grindlays Bank Group has come a long way from its beginnings in the 19th Century. In 1978 we are a major international bank - a world leader in certain areas - but we work hard to preserve the traditions that put us where we are today. Although the Group is now represented and active all around the world, we have not forgotten that it is people who make our business: our own specialists and managers in head office and branches working alongside other people - our customers.

The success of this team effort can be seen in these examples of the Group's activities - as they happen. They are the result of people's efforts. That is what Grindlays banks on.



THE GROUP PROVIDES BANKING FACILITIES FOR 71 OF THE U.K. TOP 100 INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD. Two of our corporate banking team in London discuss the financing of a project in the Middle East with the Finance Director of a leading British contracting company.



THE GROUP ACTIVELY PROMOTES BRITISH EXPORTS THROUGH ECED DOLLAR BUYER CREDITS. We have arranged ECED export finance facilities for British equipment to customers in over 55 countries.



THE GROUP'S TREASURY DIVISION COVERS ALL FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKET ACTIVITIES. Our foreign exchange dealing room is one of London's most active in the major currencies and also provides quotations in up to 40 other currencies. The Treasury is also active in the eurocurrency and sterling inter-bank markets and in particular offers a service in a wide range of money market instruments.



Grindlays Bank Group

23 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3ED.

Bausch & Lomb reveals merger talks with Revlon

Briefly

Rochester, NY, Jan 18.—Bausch and Lomb Inc. revealed today that it has discussed with Revlon Inc. and its divisions a number of possible business arrangements between the two companies.

Such discussions, it added, have covered a variety of topics from manufacturing and marketing arrangements to a possible merger.

However, Bausch and Lomb said talks regarding a merger have been exploratory and no terms have been discussed. No further details were provided.

—Reuter.

ARTHUR LEE

The results of Arthur Lee and Sons for the first half of the current year are unlikely to match those of the similar period last year, "though we may perhaps entertain better hopes of the second half", reports Mr H. P. Forster, the chairman, in his annual statement. However, he reminds shareholders that the effects of improved trading levels can be financially offset by a decrease in stock appreciation depending on the course taken by the price of steel—Lee's predominant raw material—in a period when inflation generally is said to be going to diminish. Given greater demands, the group has capacity available to meet them. Lee makes steel bars, strip, wire and wire rope.

MAIBL BANK BERMUDA
Midland and International Banks (MAIBL), oldest of London based

consortium banks, and Bank of Bermuda are jointly setting up new operation in Hongkong. MAIBL will have 80 per cent. Midland Bank has 45 per cent of MAIBL.

BANK LEUMI (UK)
Last year Bank saw marked increase in deposits from public and number of new accounts. Lower interest rates pulled down profit.

BLACK DIAMONDS-BIT
Black Diamonds Pensions now has 80 per cent of British Investment Trust and it now offers to buy out 71 per cent conv stock in BIT for cash for the higher of 165p cash or formula value in cash or each of 71 per cent conv stock held. Two BIT directors, Mr Blair and Mr Penney, neither oppose nor support proposals.

SENA SUGAR ESTATES
Meeting of holders of stock approved by requisite majority resolution sanctioning scheme of arrangement under which outstanding stock to be bought by Sena's sub SIDUL at £53 per £100 nominal.

THOMAS MARSHALL
Shares suspended after approach to company. Board advises shareholders to do nothing for the present.

BLAND PAYNE IN BRAZIL
Bland Payne, and Brasiliinvest SA, a merchant bank, to merge their insurance broking interests in Brazil. BP will have one third of new group.

Business appointments

Reshuffle at the top for Littlewoods Pools

Mr Neil Foster, joint managing director of Littlewoods Pools, has been made sole managing director. Mr Arthur George gives up his joint managing directorship and becomes joint vice-chairman. Mr Malcolm Davidson is to be a director.

Mr John W. Lapsley, vice-president and assistant general manager, is to become general manager of the London offices of Morgan Guaranty Trust. Mr Robert G. Engel continues as the senior vice-president in London. Mr Lapsley is succeeded as head of the general banking division in London by Mr Arthur M. Rogers Jr.

Mr Peter Moody, joint secretary and investment manager of Pru-dential Assurance, has been elected president of the Institute of Actuaries.

Mr Alec Lodge has been made a director of L. S. Holliday.

Mr W. W. Herrmann, president of Optic Electronic Corporation, has joined the board of United Scientific Holdings.

Mr David Barnett, deputy managing director of Brooke Bond Oxo, has become chairman of the executive committee of the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers.

Mr R. B. Wilbraham is now chairman of Westpool Investment Trust in place of Lord Altrie, who

has resigned as chairman and a director. Mr Jeremy Hill joins the board.

Mr Myles Davenport has joined the board of Streets Financial.

Mr N. G. Prosser has been made a director of Robert Fleming Investment Management.

Mr Clive Nottingham becomes managing director of Control Technology.

Mr K. H. Merriand is now a director of Wigham Poland Scotland.

Mr William Hawkes has joined the board of Unimor Industries. He is chief executive of Unimor's abrasive grain division.

Mr Ron Nicholson becomes managing director of Joyce Fabrics of New York from February 1.

Mr George Squair becomes deputy chairman of the Southern Electricity Board in succession to Mr H. D. Walker, who is to retire on March 3.

Mr David Thomson is now managing director of Polytel Film. Mr Michael Tangey has been made a director of Hambleton (Guernsey).

Mr K. G. Room becomes general manager and commercial director of Thos Reed, Valves & Tubes. Mr T. Abernethy has been made financial director and company secretary. Mr A. E. Cole technical director. Mr P. A. Deegan manufacturing director.

T & C on brink of gaining £24m project

Town & City Properties' long association with the Eastbourne Council and assurances of continued backing from the institutional partner, Legal & General Assurance, make it almost certain that its plans for a two-phase development of the town centre, believed to be worth about £24m, will be accepted by the council at a committee meeting on Monday.

The property group got a chance for a second bite at the project when John Laing, whose one-stage scheme had been initially accepted by Eastbourne, announced its decision to withdraw earlier this month. The council is on the point of approving T & C's proposals, which were studied by a sub-committee last Friday, ahead of competing schemes from Viking Investments, Mr Gerald Ransom's Heron Corporation and Samuel Properties.

AVERAGE EARNINGS

The following are the index numbers for average earnings of all employees in all industries and services covered by the monthly earnings inquiry released by the Department of Employment.

	Old series of average earnings (Jan 1975 = 100)	New series of average earnings (Jan 1975 = 100)	Change in earnings 3 months to annual rate
1976			
Oct	269.0	108.5	8.0
Nov	272.2	110.6	7.7
Dec	277.1	111.3	17.8
1977			
Jan	278.1	110.9	14.2
Feb	278.7	111.0	9.9
March	283.8	113.1	10.0
April	283.1	113.1	7.4
May	286.2	114.9	11.2
June	286.2	115.4	4.2
July	286.5	116.2	6.1
Aug	288.7	115.7	7.2
Sept	280.1	116.8	5.6
Oct	284.6	117.9	11.8
Nov	300.2	120.1	16.9

* seasonally adjusted.
† not seasonally adjusted.
p provisional.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers for industrial production in November, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1970=100):

	All industrial	Manufacturing
1976		
Nov	103.0	104.6
Dec	103.2	104.1
1977		
Jan	103.4	105.1
Feb	103.2	105.5
March	103.3	105.5
April	102.3	103.4
May	103.5	104.9
June	99.9	99.9
July	102.5	103.9
Aug	102.8	103.2
Sept	102.7	103.5
Oct	101.5	102.5
Nov	102.1	103.0

% 3-month change
+0.4 +0.7

Percentage change latest three months on previous at annual rate
-0.1

FINANCIAL NEWS

Record for Anglia but Exchequer is the real gainer

By Tony May

The importance for Anglia Television group of finding her sources of revenue and increasing overseas programmes is underlined by the effect the Exchequer levy on the results for the year to October 1977.

The Advertising revenue was a record for the year, but the Exchequer levy, which is due to be introduced in 1978, is expected to reduce it by 10 per cent. The group's revenue was £1.2m in 1977, but the Exchequer levy will reduce it to £1.1m in 1978.

The group's revenue was £1.2m in 1977, but the Exchequer levy will reduce it to £1.1m in 1978.



Lord Townshend, chairman of Anglia Television Group, has confidence in the future, and is continuing the investment programme by enlarging and re-equipping studio and technical facilities in Norwich. The board believes that an opportunity is likely to arise as a result of the company's close company status for tax purposes.

Lord Townshend says that advertising revenue continues to improve, but bookings remain short-term and forecasting is difficult. This and the market's view that the profits were not as good as they might have been prompted a 7p fall in the shares to 82p, where the yield is 7.7 per cent and the p/e is 6.1.

Lookers click smartly into top gear

By Ashley Druker

Manchester-based car distributors and engineers Lookers amply fulfils its own expectations of record profits for the year to end-September last. All the signs are that the present year will be just as promising.

Including a contribution from the Platts group bought in March, taxable profits increased from £1.16m to easily a record £1.43m on turnover raised from £31.8m to £43.3m. Profits to the preceding year also took in some £375,000 arising from a write-back of an estimated provision which was considered inappropriate. At the end, after a tax credit of £23,000 against a charge of £336,000, and some special items, the attributable shows a gain from £825,000 to £1.48m.

Earnings a share were hoisted from 12.6p to 20.3p. The total gross dividend goes up from 3.38p gross to 5.8p.

R. Platts and Sons and Platts Agricultural Machinery Exports, bought in March, are engaged as agricultural machinery distributors and repairers and also export used agricultural machinery. Profits for 1976 were some £348,000.

Platts was expected to provide a good return on the total £945,000 investment and to benefit the group also by expanding its activities into a similar trade with growth prospects.

For the year ahead the group continues to trade "satisfactorily".

Magnet & Southern slightly lower

By Desmond Quigley

Magnet & Southern, the timber group, has reported marginally lower pre-tax profits at £7.08m for the six months to end-September compared with £7.11m in the same period in the previous year.

The interim dividend has been raised to 5.3p a share gross compared with 4.62p. The size of the increase is partly due to even out the distribution between the interim and final payments. However, Mr Sam Oxford, chairman, said yesterday that making a large increase in the interim provided the company with scope at the final stage if dividend controls are lifted. The shares rose 2p yesterday to 190p where the prospective yield, assuming a 10 per cent total dividend increase, is 7 per cent.

Group turnover rose to £52.12m from £45.3m, but pre-tax margins dropped a point. This partly reflected the fact that the group has become a net payer rather than a net receiver of interest.

The group benefited from higher consumer spending and indeed the Magnet side of the business, which has the retail outlets, increased its profit contribution from £3.4m to £3.89m. By contrast Southern Evans made £3.21m compared with £3.72m, which partly reflects weakness in softwood prices.

In the current half, trade is running reasonably well, but the period takes in two extended holiday periods—Christmas and Easter—while weather conditions over the next two months will also have an important effect on demand.

The group is continuing to expand its retail network, but at a considerably reduced level since it already has a good geographical coverage. However, competition in this sector is likely to increase since other groups are beginning to expand into this area.

Countryside recovery well on the way

Countryside Properties has confirmed its recovery progress and the housebuilder is now looking for "a further significant increase in profitability for the current year".

The owners look promising. Pre-tax profits climbed to £243,000 in the 15 months to end-September last — £195,000 on an annualised basis—against £60,000 in the previous year. The board, headed by Mr S. Bobroff, reports an "encouraging" current level of trading.

Countryside now holds a two, to three-year land bank which it believes will circumvent the expected building lead shortage. Furthermore, the improvement was achieved despite high interest rates, abnormal weather, and the considerable additional costs imposed by the failure of some external building contractors. Since Countryside's own construction division is now undertaking the majority of the work, it is felt that the latter problem will not recur.

The outlook is bright, particularly so since implementation of ED 19 provides £5.4m of stock increase relief, but at a 12 month peak of 39p the shares have already discounted much of the forthcoming recovery. Annualised earnings were 2.8p per share.

Free of dividend restraint, Countryside is proposing a gross final of 2p, which will lift the deal from 0.25p to 2.25p per share.

Forecast of tough year ahead at Hanson Trust

By Michael Clark

A warning was given yesterday by Sir James Hanson, chairman of Hanson Trust, who told the annual meeting that the group was facing a "tough year". He added: "I will be very pleased to see the same profits overall this year."

News of the chairman's remarks sent the group's shares sliding back 3p to 136p.

Last year the group pushed pre-tax profits for the year to September 30, up from £19.2m to £24.4m, which was much in line with expectations.

The group's United States subsidiary Hygrade Food Products Corp, contributed £6.3m in its first full year out of a total from the United States of £15m pre-tax, while Carlsbrook increased its figure by more than a fifth to £5.4m.

Last month in his annual review the chairman said that he still believes the timing is right to make the United States its prime investment.

First-half jump at Heron Motor: Henlys on target

Good figures were released yesterday by two big car-dealing groups—the Edinburgh-based Heron Motor and Henlys, which is headquartered in London.

In the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits of Heron Motor, which is controlled by the Heron Corporation, climbed by 76 per cent to £1.43m. This arises from a 23 per cent rise in sales to £62.98m and a 48 per cent increase in trading profits to £2.05m. This comes on top of the almost doubled results of £2.01m for the previous full year.

Basic earnings per share for the half-year reached 5.02p, up by 82 per cent, while diluted earnings were 74.5 per cent greater at 4.52p. In line with the 10 per cent limit, the interim payment, gross, is going up from 2.38p to 2.57p.

Mr Peter Reynolds, Heron Motor's chief executive, reports that the results reflect the continuing improvement in margins and the benefit of lower interest rates.

Since September 30, trading has remained at a favourable level and Mr Reynolds expects the year as a whole will show a "considerable increase" on 1976-77.

Last month Heron Motor sold its holding of 2.84 million ordinary shares in Henlys to the Bank of Scotland for £4.21m—more than double the book cost—and Henlys predicted record profits of "in the order" of £4.3m pre-tax for the year to September 30. Henlys confirmed this yesterday, with figures of £4.32m—easily the best ever achieved and more than twice the £1.9m of 1975-76.

Turnover was almost 24 per cent ahead at £160.2m. With earnings per share almost doubled, from 13.5p to 26.7p, the total dividend, gross, is raised to 10.08p, including a small supplementary dividend for 1976, against 9.07p.

Slow final quarter at Thos French

Exceptional items, like the sale-down of the Londonderry coast, which was about £100,000 depressed the final quarter of the extended trading period at Thomas French & Co. Pre-tax profits reached £2.7m for the 15 months to October, compared with £1m in the previous year. The adjustment of the audited accounts over the subsidiaries also had significant effect on the final quarter. In all other respects, Mr T. Jeremy French, the chairman, says that trading was in line with the board's budget.

The outlook for this maker of "Ruffies" curtain fixings and "Killer" electric surface heating products is bright. Mr French is more optimistic about the trading climate although he does not expect a substantial improvement. However, he is asking for an increased profits.

Other moves by C. & W. have included the takeover of Incolet Inc of New York; and the current agreed cash tender offer being made for the Carterfone Communications Corporation.

Crouch Group looks for small improvement

The Crouch Group did well to almost maintain its half-time results considering the difficulties the building industry is going through. Although turnover slipped from £5.07m to £4.71m in the six months to September 30, Crouch managed to hold pre-tax profits to £259,200, against £273,400 last time. Shareholders are to collect a dividend of 1.5p, which is up from 1.35p to 1.37p. The board expects the full year's figures to be "slightly better" than 1976-77's £406,000 pre-tax. The effect of the expected rise in the demand for houses, together with Government help in the public sector, will not be felt until later in 1978.

Inflation accounting at A. Guinness

The latest annual report from Arthur Guinness, the brewer, shows the effect of inflation accounting on the pre-tax profits of £39.45m for the year to Sept 24. It would reduce these profits by £14.8m, or 37 per cent, the chairman, Lord Iveagh, reports.

Combined buying in Harcos lifts stake

Rothschild Investment Trust, along with Hume Holdings, in which it has a 25 per cent stake, and McLeod Russell continued yesterday to buy Harcos, which is subject to a takeover bid from Harcos & Crosfield. However, RIT paid 85p a share compared with the cash alternative in the H & C bid of 82p.

The three companies picked up a total of 13,000 shares yesterday, raising their combined stake in Harcos to 12.16 per cent.

Alexander at £1m first six months

Further progress is reported in the takeover of Alexander & Sons, whose shares are traded on the over-the-counter market made by J. H. Nightingale. On turnover from £10.4m to £11.4m, pre-tax profits rose to £808,000 to £1m in the year to September 30. Included in the profits are the distribution from associates of £1,000, against £57,000 last year. The board looks for a satisfactory increase in the year's profits. Alexander is a coach building, other transport-related activities and light engineering.

Wireless in foray

Wireless has made a further move into the United States market with the acquisition of a controlling interest in Systems Inc of McLean, Va. It makes a telephone answering device known as Tele-Answer.

This is used by companies to provide a service and mini-telephone. TD's operates a computer-based service known as Datapost.

Fargo again at peak for twelfth year running

Fargo, which conducts real banking and real estate is based in California, has again reached a record earnings for the twelfth consecutive year. Before securities, for year were \$87.3m (about 10m) equal to \$4.03 a share, or \$3.16 in 1976.

R. Cooley, president, said that the company's earnings were significantly higher throughout the year. Heavy demand and savings enabled it to fund the increased loan. The relatively economically, the company's earnings, he said, resulted in better results.

Reduction in the provision for losses to \$41m from \$46m because of improved economic conditions, and the effect of charges to income in 1976 in connection with the company's holding in a bank, also contributed to higher 1977 earnings, Cooley said.

International

Budd said that the board action paves the way for talks between Budd and Thyssen on terms of a final merger pact which would then require approval of Budd holders at a meeting probably to be held in April.

Hanover again ahead

Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, the parent company of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, reports record annual after-tax operating earnings for the fifth consecutive year. Operating profits for 1977 were \$157.9m (about £83m) up by 10.2 per cent from the \$143.3m in 1976. For the fourth quarter of 1977, profits were \$40.3m, a 5.5 per cent increase over the \$38.2m earned in the same 1976 period.

Net income, or income after securities transactions, totalled \$157.5m for the year, an increase of 10.1 per cent from the \$143.1m earned in 1976. For the fourth quarter of 1977, net income was \$40.3m, up 5.9 per cent from the \$38m reported in the year earlier period.

Usinor halted again

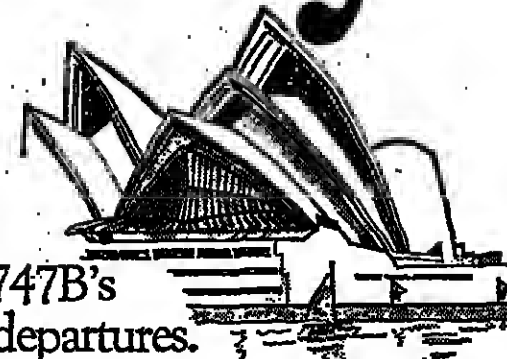
Trading in the shares of Usinor SA, the steel concern, was again halted because of an imbalance of buying orders on the Paris Bourse, dealers said. Trading was halted for a period of 19.10 francs compared with Monday's 17.90 francs, having touched 19.40 at one stage.

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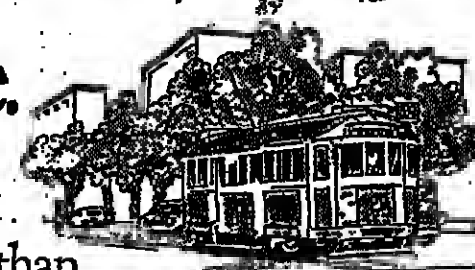
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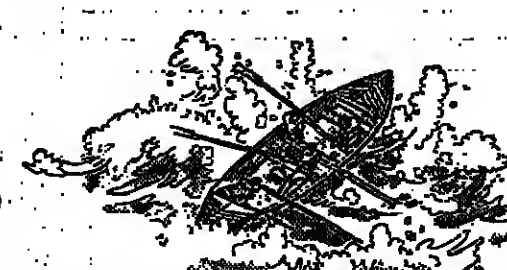
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Commodities

Wall Street

Silver dips 5 cents

ABN Bank	61 1/2	62 1/2
ABN-AMRO	61 1/2	62 1/2
Accordat Bank	61 1/2	62 1/2
Coordinated Crdts	61 1/2	62 1/2
First London Secs	61 1/2	62 1/2
C. Moore & Co	61 1/2	62 1/2
Lloyds Bank	61 1/2	62 1/2
London Mercantile	61 1/2	62 1/2
Midland Bank	61 1/2	62 1/2
Nat'l Ind Bank	61 1/2	62 1/2
Rosenstein, Acc's	61 1/2	62 1/2
Shenley Trust	61 1/2	62 1/2
TSE	61 1/2	62 1/2
Williams and Glyn's	61 1/2	62 1/2

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
62-63 Threadneedle Street, London, EC2R 8HP. Tel: 01 638 6551
The Over-the-Counter Market

1977/78	Blah	Low	Company	Leat	Ga'ge	Gross	Yld	P/E
						Dtst p1		
44	27		Airsprung Ord	39		4.2	10.8	7.3
350	159		Airsprung 183% CULS	40		18.4	13.2	
39	35		Armstrong & Rhodes	36		9.8	15.3	
212	106		Bardis HD	12		12.0	5.5	
102	51		Deborah ord	101		5.1	5.2	8.0
216	103		Deborah 171% CULS	211		17.5	8.0	—
137	120		Frederick Carpin	138		11.5	6.3	6.7
53	36		Jackson Group	48		5.0	10.4	5.5
240	111		James Baugh	17		1.5	10.3	16.8
340	188		Robert Jenkins	320		27.0	8.4	5.4
24	9		Twinlock Ord	16		—	—	—
77	54		Twinlock 12% ULS	77		12.6	15.6	—
74	51		Unilock Holdings	74		9.5	9.5	—
74	51		Unilock Holdings	74		9.5	9.5	—
74	51		Unilock Holdings	74		9.5	9.5	—

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar.

All documents for registration and correspondence should in future be sent to:-

Lloyds Bank Limited,
Registrar's Department,
Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA.
Telephone: Worthing 502541
(STD Code 0903)

LTCC 6 1/2 1982	98	108
OKB 6 1/2 1983	98	108
Soc Gen 7 1/2 1984	97	98

Eurosyndicat

The Eurosyndicat Index
European share prices was p
professionally at 120.04 on Janua
17 against 119.57 a week earlier

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

A little late interest gave sterling a small net gain in terms of the dollar yesterday after being outperformed by other major currencies for most of the day. The pound closed 5 points up on balance at \$1,924.5, having lost over 10 points earlier in the session. Depending the greater part of the session in the region of \$1,920.

The dollar dipped from its best bid against most Continental currencies to a low of 63 1/2 cents, against the mark closed at 2.135, against the franc at 2.135; Swiss franc fell from 1.9925 to 2.0175 and French francs slipped from 4.74 to 4.7515. The yen slipped from 242.35 to 242.35.

Gold lost \$1 per ounce to close at \$348.50.

Bank of England yesterday bought £10 million of the Treasury bonds, moderate amounts of Treasury bills and a small number of local authority bills. Total purchases were within moderate band.

The help looked for by the market was not as needed, yet the close was still rather better than the opening. The 3-month bill was down during the morning before coming off to 6 1/4 per cent by midday. Some banks were looking for a rise to show in the rate in their mid-month returns.

After lunch fresh funds in the market were not easy to find and the 3-month bill slipped to 6 1/4 per cent while houses were still paying in the region of 6 per cent to 6 1/2 per cent at the close.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Washington, Jan. 18.—Mr Bob Bergland, the United States Agriculture Secretary, said American wheat production could be cut by at least 1,100 million bushels due to production shortfalls in many

[illegible]

151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661
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Appointments Vacant
also on page 28

Accountant Manager

An opportunity now exists for a Management Accountant to join a small group of companies in the West End of London.

The successful candidate will be responsible for all accounting up to and including the balance sheet stage, general administration of the office, provision of management requirements including up to date costing end sales, cash-flow forecasts and generally assisting the Managing Director in the conduct of the business.

Salary is negotiable and would well reflect the importance of this job. Qualifications would be an advantage, applicants should provide full details of experience to date in writing to:

Box 0299 K, The Times

This position is open to both male and female.

TRANSLATOR

In their Southampton office.

French and German into English mother tongue. Excellent starting salary plus bonuses. A Secretary will be provided. Please telephone for an application form to Mr. Hayes.

Southampton (STD 0703) 34816

QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

Possibility for qualified accountant to join an expanding Steel Company with offices in Mayfair. Knowledge of the Burroughs accounting machine system would be an advantage but not essential for this position which leaves open possibilities for development.

Please address your c.v. and state salary expected to Box 0452 K, The Times.

INTERVIEWING

Dwelling and Housing Survey Group needs freelance interviewers in London; full-time (or equivalent) preferably for up to three months or more; training given; flexible hours. The task is to interview at least 8% of London's households on behalf of the Department of the Environment to obtain an up to date picture of housing conditions. Rates of pay (including bonus and travel) can exceed £50 per week in Inner London (£44 in Outer London).

Write to Dwelling and Housing Survey Group (P.485/3) c/o 16 Duncan Terrace, London, N.1. urgently.

GOVERNESS/TUTOR Lausanne, Switzerland

FOR FOUR BOYS ATTENDING BOARDING SCHOOL WITH WEEKEND EXCURSIONS AT HOME

Youngest 8 years and his mother 10, need extra loving care and attention.

Their brothers are 12 and 14 years (with a 10-year-old sister). Applications should be made to a lady who speaks English and French, has excellent academic qualifications, experience in teaching, and is a native of Lausanne. The boys also enjoy all sports especially water and snow skiing.

A married couple would be considered, if the husband is prepared to work and play with the boys (preferably both teachers).

Total responsibility for welfare of the children, every holiday taken abroad, and the boys' education and general development. A pleasant personality and smiling face is of paramount importance. French an asset but not essential.

APPLY WITH C.V. TO: THE SECRETARY
11 EATON SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1

ADVOCATE

Required by West Country Solicitors with large criminal practice. Some experience necessary. Must be able to write clearly and well. Salary according to age and experience. Good prospect for the right person.

STEPHENS & SCOWN
St Austell, Cornwall
or telephone St Austell 2277

LAWYER

With sound knowledge of at least one of the following languages needed as outside contributor for legal magazine: Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Greek. (Digest of cases and legislation).

Please reply to: Common Law Reports Ltd., 10-16 Elm Street, London, W.C.1. Tel. 278 2345; ext. 75.

SUB-EDITOR FOR THE TIMES

No time required, a first-class sub-editor with at least three years' experience in newspaper editing. Please write with full career details to: THE TIMES, PO BOX 97, NEW PRINTING HOUSE SQUARE, GRAY'S INN ROAD, LONDON WC1X 8EZ

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

£3,234-£3,594 plus 5% pay supplements

The Local Government Training Board has a vacancy for a Secretary. The successful applicant will be required to act as a member of the Board's committees and work parties. A good command of English is essential and experience in committee work is desirable.

For application forms, to be returned by 10th May 1978 together with further details contact: Personnel Assistant, Local Government Training Board, 8 The Arndale Centre, Luton LU1 2TS on Luton 21111.

SALARY SURVEY OFFICERS

(£5,887 - £6,887)

The Civil Service Pay Research Unit invites applications for Survey Officer posts on short-term contracts of about 3 years. The job is to study the work of groups of Civil Service staff grades, to find comparisons for this work in a variety of organisations in commerce and industry, and to prepare detailed reports of the comparative levels of pay, other benefits and conditions of service. These are challenging posts offering scope for independent investigation within a team setting.

Applicants must have at least 5 years' general experience in personnel management outside the Civil Service, including at least 2 years' specialised work in job analysis and evaluation and/or salary administration. Previous experience in conducting comparable remuneration surveys and a general understanding of representative sampling would be advantageous. The work requires interviewing and analytical skills and an ability to communicate easily and effectively with outside staffs at all levels.

The salary scale is £5,887 rising to £6,887, inclusive of London Weighting and pay supplements. Starting pay will normally be at the minimum. The posts are London-based but applicants must be prepared to travel extensively within the U.K.

APPLICANTS MUST BE FREE TO TAKE UP APPOINTMENT BY 1 APRIL 1978 AT THE LATEST.

Write, giving details of all relevant experience, career history including brief job descriptions, present salary, academic and specialised qualifications, and the names/addresses of two referees who can be approached prior to interview. Applications should be addressed to:

Mrs Pat Charlton,
Civil Service Pay Research Unit,
Queen Anne's Chambers,
41 Tottill Street,
London SW1H 9JX.

Latest date for receipt of applications is 6 February 1978.

PAY RESEARCH UNIT



Marine Products Technical Assistant

A vacancy exists in our International Marine Sales organisation for a Technical Assistant in deal with the Marine range of products, providing service on all technical aspects of Bunker fuels and lubricants supplied to the International Marine market.

Applicants (age 25-35) should have a good educational background to 'A' level standard, an HNC in Mechanical Engineering with qualifications preferably leading to Corporate Membership of the Institute of Marine Engineers or similar standard. They should have a good command of written and spoken English and the ability to converse on equal terms with Senior Technologists and Engineers. This job would be of particular interest to candidates with sea-going experience holding 1st or 2nd Engineers BOT Certificate.

Dependent on experience and qualifications, starting remuneration would be in the range £5,600-£6,600 p.a. including London Allowance and Income Policy Supplements. Contributory pension fund - five day week - free lunches - four weeks annual holiday - good sports and social facilities.

Telephone or write for an application form to: Shell International Petroleum Company Limited, LP/12, Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA. 01-934 2838.

A West London office of an expanding Steel Producing Company is looking for an experienced person in

STEEL MERCHANTING/ STOCK HOLDING

flat products. This position opens a lucrative possibility of development with a company which rewards success.

Please indicate salary expected with c.v. and experience to Box 0451 K, The Times.

GENERAL VACANCIES

Ministry of Defence

INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS

at least six posts - five in Central London and one in Ashford, Kent.

LONDON

The work, within the Defence Intelligence Staff, concerns the collation, evaluation, analysis and dissemination of information required for defence. Candidates must have relevant experience in one or more of the following fields: the organisation and operational methods of one of the Armed Forces; logistic support, control and operation of equipment; airfields; transport systems and ports; guided missiles, and aircraft and other defence systems.

ASHFORD

At the School of Service Intelligence, the work involves instructing in intelligence collection and the use of associated equipment. Candidates must have detailed knowledge of current intelligence collection techniques and the tactical application of technical equipment in their specialised field, together with service experience.

ALL CANDIDATES must have a good general education (preferably to GCE 'A' level standard), a keen interest in (overseas) affairs and a sound general knowledge.

Salary: Ashford £3,535-£4,180; London £4,025-£4,655. Starting salary may be above the minimum. Promotion prospects. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 9 February 1978) write to: Civil Service Commission, Alencro Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answers service operates outside office hours). PLEASE QUOTE REF. G/9693.

ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN

TEMPORARY RESEARCH OFFICER

The Arts Council wishes to appoint, for a period of 1 year, an experienced research officer with a good knowledge of survey methods to study the art price policy of the London art market. The successful candidate will be required to conduct a series of interviews with art dealers, auctioneers, and other interested parties, and to prepare a report on the findings of the survey. The successful candidate will be expected to have a good knowledge of the art market and to be able to communicate effectively with the public.

Applications with full curriculum vitae and names and addresses of three referees should be sent to: The Arts Council, 100 Strand, London, W.C.2. Salary would be negotiable in relation to age and experience.

Editor for a new gardening publication

We are looking for an Editor for a new gardening publication. The successful candidate will be responsible for the editorial content of the publication, and will be expected to have a good knowledge of gardening and to be able to communicate effectively with the public.

Applications with full curriculum vitae and names and addresses of three referees should be sent to: The Arts Council, 100 Strand, London, W.C.2. Salary would be negotiable in relation to age and experience.

For application forms, to be returned by 10th May 1978 together with further details contact: Personnel Assistant, Local Government Training Board, 8 The Arndale Centre, Luton LU1 2TS on Luton 21111.

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EUROPEAN REGIONAL MANAGER/ MANAGERESS

for a rapidly expanding U.S. medical products company. Based in the U.K., you will travel throughout Europe to build strong dealer organizations. Minimum 3-5 years experience in medical equipment or instrumentation sales desired. Forward resume, salary history and salary requirements to Box 0428 K, The Times, London, England.

GENERAL VACANCIES

Career prospects offered by City discount house for young person, approximately 18-20. Previous banking experience preferable but not essential.

Candidates should have at least 5 'O' levels including English and Maths, good salary and fringe benefits.

Apply in writing to Box 0462 K, The Times.

CITY TRAVEL AGENCY

has a requirement for a supervisor, fluent in German, able to converse with clients at all levels, to fix visits to manufacturers and retail outlets in West Germany. A salary of £3,500-£4,000 p.a. plus an annual bonus will be paid. An annual bonus will be paid. An annual bonus will be paid.

Apply in writing to Box 0462 K, The Times.

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Apply in writing to Box 0462 K, The Times.

Forty radio technicians and telegraphists need a boss, under 26 years old.

As an Officer in the Royal Signals you will command the soldiers who send, receive and re-route messages by radio, telephone and teleprinter.

You might also have to set up, operate and maintain a communications system linking a General's headquarters with the infantry, artillery, engineers and other troops under his command, either in the U.K. or abroad.

You may even have to specify, design and test equipment. We don't expect you to walk in and take over without preparation, of course.

There are two periods of training for a Short Service Commissioned Officer: six months at Sandhurst where we develop those powers of leadership which every Officer must possess, then six months specialised training at the Army's School of Signals in Dorset.

As soon as you're commissioned, you'll earn £3136 a year. After three years commissioned service, if you decide to leave, you'll receive a tax-free gratuity of £1545.

Add to this the management experience you'll gain as an Officer responsible for forty highly trained soldiers, including technicians and their equipment, and you should be well placed to take up a career in civilian life.

On the other hand, if you've decided from the start to make the Army your career you'll be striving for promotion to the rank of Captain and above.

Whatever your ambitions, you'll need time to decide.

It might help if you spent a day or two at the School of Signals, asking our young Officers and instructors anything you like.

First of all, we'd like to know your age (you should be under 26) and your qualifications.

Address your letter to Major R.A. Couchman, Dept. D36, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

Army Officer

CHINA TRADER

We are a Chemical Trading Company, a subsidiary of a Metals and Chemicals Corporation, based in London. We are seeking a trader with an intimate knowledge of, as well as experience in, negotiating and concluding business with mainland China in chemicals and metals. The candidate selected will have a successful record of trading in China in these commodities and will be able to take important decisions as a key member of our organisation.

Excellent prospects, remuneration and the usual benefits will be offered to the successful candidate who can demonstrate his or her ability to meet the challenge that this post offers.

Applications in writing only with details of c.v. and (if possible) an up-to-date photograph, and stating to which Companies, if any, the application should not be forwarded, should be addressed to:-

The Director,
International Trading Division,
(Ref. 202)
c/o Woodham Smith Greenwood &
Holland, Solicitors,
12, Great James Street,
Bedford Row,
London, WC1N 3DR.

YOUNG TV EXECUTIVE TRAINEE REQUIRED

Young, very successful TV programme production company wishes to interview candidates for junior positions in London branch of their international communications firm.

Candidates should have some knowledge of TV and film production, management, business administration and accounting. Knowledge of foreign languages an asset. International travel involved.

All enquiries, accompanied by resume, should be sent to: Personnel Department, Sportsline Inc., 10 Suffolk Court, 152 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

GENERAL VACANCIES

COMPARISON SHOPPERS

required by a large retail organisation to undertake interesting merchandise surveys mainly in Central London.

The work calls for merchandise flair, a critical mind, and the ability to write clear and succinct reports.

Applicants should be aged 25-45 and have a good standard of education and a good knowledge of retailing. Previous experience in retailing is desirable but not essential.

Hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

PAY £3,000

Excellent staff benefits.

PLEASE TELEPHONE 01-637 3433

FURTHER INFORMATION.

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FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

Royal Postgraduate Medical School

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

Applications are invited for the above post which involves the preparation of financial statements and the management of the school's financial affairs.

The successful candidate will be expected to have a degree in accountancy and to be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Applicants should send their applications, together with details of their qualifications and experience, to the Director of Finance, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, 27, Portland Place, London, W.1.

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PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

CAMPBELL COLLEGE

Chaplain

and/or

Head of Religious Education

Required for September, 1978 (Salary and Scope by negotiation)

Further details available from the Headmaster, Campbell College, Belfast.

Applications close on February 12th

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The Polytechnic of Central London

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT SURVEYING UNIT

PRINCIPAL LECTURER IN ESTATE MANAGEMENT

£6,854-£7,356 (plus £1,228-£1,472 which includes pension and £1,000 bonus)

Applications are invited from persons with a professional qualification in estate management and a minimum of 10 years' experience in the field.

The successful candidate will be expected to have a degree in estate management and to be a member of the Institution of Estate Agents.

Applicants should send their applications, together with details of their qualifications and experience, to the Director of Finance, Polytechnic of Central London, 27, Portland Place, London, W.1.

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